

CAPSULE SUMMARY

Survey No. CT-1314

Ponds Wood Road Community

Huntingtown, Calvert County

Geographic Location: Western Shore

Themes: Social history, ethnic heritage, agriculture

Period of Significance: 1889-1958

Chronological Development Periods: Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930 and Modern Period 1930 – present

The Ponds Wood Road Community is a rural district containing a significant concentration of buildings, structures, and sites associated with the transition from tenant farming to land ownership by African Americans beginning in the late nineteenth century. The district includes nearly 250 acres of land flanking both sides of Ponds Wood Road, a 3.7 mile state road bounded by Maryland Route 2/4 on the west and Maryland 261 on the east. The terrain varies from hilly to flat along the length of the road, with extensive wooded sections and low-lying areas hinting at the origins of the road's name.

The location of buildings in the Ponds Wood Road community was dictated by the terrain and by tradition, which promulgated the placement of tobacco barns close by fields and sited to promote the air curing of tobacco. Lining the road are 14 farmsteads of first-time African-American landowners from the period 1889-1958, each containing at least a house, tobacco barn, and associated fields. While four of the houses were standing on farms at the time of purchase, houses built for new owners on the remaining farms and on smaller parcels are vernacular adaptations of single-family dwelling types popular in the region at various times during the historic period. The persistence of a tenancy system of agriculture is attested to by two dwellings constructed by white landowners in the 1940s.

A total of 24 tobacco barns are located in the community, evidence of the principal livelihood of Ponds Wood Road residents for much of the historic period. The pattern of barn design and construction reflects the tradition of passing knowledge to subsequent generations of farmers. While most of these barns were constructed in the twentieth century, three of the barns were constructed by planters in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The tobacco barns nearly dominate the rural landscape, generally situated at the top of hills or, in several instances, close to the main thoroughfare. Other agricultural buildings present in the community include corn houses, chicken houses, and machinery sheds. Noncontributing resources comprising approximately 149 buildings and dating from the last quarter of the twentieth century are scattered throughout the community, most of them either obscured by trees or located beyond the Ponds Wood Road viewshed in small residential neighborhoods.

That so many buildings and structures associated with the historic period stand a half-century later is due to their continued ownership by descendants of the first-time African-American landowners and to the importance many of these families associate with the preservation of the "home place." In the Ponds Wood Road Community, both the traditions of tobacco farming and a new chapter in the social history of Calvert County are written on the landscape.

**PONDS WOOD ROAD COMMUNITY
HUNTINGTOWN, MD**

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Resource Location	Owner Name and Mailing Address	Liber/Folio	Inventory
50 Ponds Wood Road	Judy Evans 40 Pond Wood Road Huntingtown MD 20639	JLB 157/485	
135 Ponds Wood Road	Eloise Ray 135 Ponds Wood Road Huntingtown	AWR 3/189	CT-379
201 Ponds Wood Road	Lambertine Jones 9710 Ridge View Drive Owings, MD 20736-4014	1312/468	
450 Ponds Wood Road	Mary E. Holland 460 Ponds Wood Road Huntingtown, MD 20639-9011	KPS 1168/599	
4470 Harvest Lane	Wilford Harrison Jones 4470 Harvest Lane Huntingtown, MD 20639-3507	KPS 2785/103	
4475 Harvey Road	George Greene Jr. and Jean A. Greene P.O. Box 4 Huntingtown, MD 20639-0004	ABE 692/718	
510 Ponds Wood Road	Dolores Jones, et al P.O. Box 1083 Prince Frederick, MD 20678-1083	KPS 16/81	
675 Ponds Wood Road	Lillie Morsell 675 Ponds Wood Road Huntingtown, MD 20639	ABE 631/408	
755 Ponds Wood Road (tenant house)	Seidel LLC 5341 Ketch Road Suite 200 Prince Frederick, MD 20678-3472	KPS2840/391	CT-213
755 Ponds Wood Road	Seidel LLC 5341 Ketch Road Suite 200 Prince Frederick, MD 20678-3472	KPS2840/391	CT-213
780 Ponds Wood Road	Turner and Virginia Ray 780 Ponds Wood Road Huntingtown, MD 20639	ABE 225/47	
4610 Rolling Hill Road	John D. Ray and Deloris Y. Ray 4880 Solomons Island Road Huntingtown, MD 20639	ABE 349/217	CT-104
950 Ponds Wood Road	Dwight and Pandora Brooks 950 Ponds Wood Road Huntingtown, MD 29639	ABE 287/161	
970 Ponds Wood Road	Melissa Howe Harley 90 Sheckells Road Huntingtown, MD 20639-9652	KPS 2319/570	
980 Ponds Wood Road	Josephine Ray P.O. Box 264 Huntingtown, MD 20639	AWR 22/227	
990 Ponds Wood Road	Ricardo Q. Prout Sr. and Gregg D. Prout 9323 Pella Place Clinton, MD 20735	ABE 832/106	

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1030 Ponds Wood Road	Lisa M. Watts 1030 Ponds Wood Road Huntingtown, MD 20639-9017	KPS 1307/375	
1120 Ponds Wood Road	Karen N. David et al c/o Daniel Ray P.O. Box 572 Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732-0572	ABE 268/287	
1820 Ponds Wood Road	Larry Ronald Stallings and Judy Christine Stallings P.O. Box 309 Huntingtown, MD 20639-0309	ABE 790/53	
3930 Moonbeam Avenue Non-contributing	Timothy B. and Sharon Blackwell 3930 Moonbeam Avenue Huntingtown, MD 20639	ABE 332/556	CT-380
3951 Moonbeam Avenue	Gary and Ivey Marlowe 3951 Moonbeam Avenue Huntingtown, MD 20639	ABE 304/361	
2210 Ponds Wood Road	Blanche Bean Lawrence c/o Donald Miller 4600 Lee Highway Suite 212 Arlington, VA 22207-3419	JLB 159/168	
3950 Faith Lane	Bessie J. Reid, et al 3950 Faith Lane Huntingtown, MD 20639	ABE 282/564	CT-253
4030 Holbrook Lane	Joe D. and Sandra K. Creech 4030 Holbrook Lane Huntingtown, MD 20639	ABE 752/787	
Open Space, Holbrook	MBRT Properties 111 E. Chesapeake Beach Road Owings, MD 20736-3535	KPS 2683/330	
2355 Ponds Wood Road	Robert L. and Mabel E. Conway 4001 Starlight Court P.O. Box 158 Huntingtown, MD 20639	ABE 614/444	
2455 Ponds Wood Road	Shawn A. Brooks 3980 Dares Beach Road Prince Frederick, MD 20678	ABE 452/416	CT-253
2530 Ponds Wood Road	Linda Greene 2530 Ponds Wood Road Huntingtown, MD 20639-9034	KPS 129/154	
2595 Ponds Wood Road	Robert L. and Mabel E. Conway P.O. Box 158 Huntingtown, MD 20639-0158	ABE 614/448	
Carl Parran House 2740 Ponds Wood Road	Gloriatine and Calvin B. Jones, Jr. 4870 Solomons Island Road Huntingtown, MD 20639-8851	KPS 346/442	CT-252
2785 Ponds Wood Road	Graham Brown and Alice E. Brown 2785 Ponds Wood Road Huntingtown, MD 20639	AAH 43/317	
2955 Ponds Wood Road	Sidney T. Brooks Jr. 2955 Ponds Wood Road Huntingtown, MD 20639-9038	ABE 927/691	

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2980 Ponds Wood Road	George M. and Robin L. Holland P.O. Box 543 Huntingtown, MD 20639-0543	JLB 165/449	
2985 Ponds Wood	Pauline Fletcher 2985 Ponds Wood Road Huntingtown, MD 20639		
3009 Ponds Wood Road	Elizabeth M. Jones and Velma L. Scayles 3009 Ponds Wood Road Huntingtown, MD 20639	ABE 400/262	
3010 Ponds Wood Road	Allnut Reid Jr. 3010 Ponds Wood Road Huntingtown, MD 20639	ABE 356/937	CT-102
3016 Ponds Wood Road	Jesse J. and Ruth N. Reid 3010 Ponds Wood Road Huntingtown, MD 20639	ABE 262/666 ABE 262/668	
3440 Bayside Road	Archie Jones Gorman and Sondra C. Gorman P.O. Box 101 Owings, MD 20736-0101	ABE 256/367	
150 Mac Arthur Drive	Zara Helen Jenkins and Ruby May Jones 150 MacArthur Drive Huntingtown, MD 20639	ABE 514/628	
4475 Harvey Road	Rory Tyrone Jones P.O. Box 201 Huntingtown, MD 20639-0201	KPS 1165/334	
136 Turnabout Lane	William and Pamela C. Buck 136 Turnabout Lane Huntingtown, MD 20639	BJS 1089/169	
150 Turnabout Lane	Richard Harvey 150 Turnabout Lane Huntingtown, MD 20639	AWR 8/398	

7. Description

Inventory No. CT-1314

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Summary Paragraph

The Ponds Wood Road community is a district containing resources associated with the transition from tenant farming to land ownership by African Americans in the first half of the twentieth century. The district includes approximately 251 acres of land flanking the road, which is bounded on the east by Maryland Route 2/4 and on the west by Maryland Route 261. The terrain varies from hilly to flat, and the road alternately curves north and south along its 3.7-mile length. Lining the road are 14 farmsteads of first-time African American landowners from the historic period – each containing at least a dwelling, tobacco barn, and associated fields. Separate from the farmsteads are an additional 11 dwellings, 7 tobacco barns, one cattle barn, nine sheds, and three sites associated with tenant farming and the transition in land ownership. Non-contributing resources comprising buildings and structures dating from the last quarter of the twentieth century are scattered along the road, most of them either obscured by trees or located beyond the road viewshed in small residential neighborhoods. Heavily wooded road sections and low-lying areas hint at the origins of the road's name.

Comprehensive Description

The Ponds Wood Road community is located near Huntingtown, in the northern portion of Calvert County, Maryland. A state road, Maryland Route 575, Ponds Wood is bounded on the west by Solomons Island Road, Maryland Route 2/4, and on the east by Bayside Road, Maryland Route 261. Ponds Wood is approximately 3.7 miles long, and serves as the boundary between two of the county's three election districts, with the land on the south side in the second district, and the land on the north side in the third district. The road lies in the North Beach and Prince Frederick quadrangles of the U.S.G.S. Topographic Map for Calvert County (1953, revised).

Running generally west to east, Ponds Wood Road alternately winds north and south along its length. Changes in elevation are most pronounced along the western third of the road, ranging from 100 to 160 feet above sea level, however, the hilly nature of the terrain is evident along the entire length. Features of the district include fields of various sizes that run back from the road on either side. The majority of these fields lie fallow, however, four fields, comprising 35 – 40 acres, are currently in hay and corn. The fields are separated by stretches of woods and clusters of modest single-family dwellings, many of them belonging to descendants of the community's first African-American landowners. Additional dwellings sit back from the road, many of them screened by woods, or located in small residential areas off Ponds Wood. Because of the hilly terrain, some portions of the farms are located out of the road view shed. Eight properties in the Ponds Wood Road community are currently listed in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties.¹

Two expansive wooded sections lie along the road: on the south side, between 695 and 1451 Ponds Wood Road, and on the north side, between 1120 Ponds Wood Road and 4001 Starlight Court. In addition to tobacco farming, trees were felled and sold for lumber during and after the historic period. There are a handful of noncontributing commercial buildings in the community, one standing on the site of a store from the historic period. A community church, Mount Gethsemane Holiness Church, is under construction on the site of the church's former building at 676 Ponds Wood Road.

The contributing resources in the district encompass:

1 road (Ponds Wood Road, classified as a contributing structure)

24 tobacco barns (24 total; 7 contributing tobacco barns not on farmstead)

14 farmsteads (comprising individual resources of 14 dwellings, 17 tobacco barns, one stable, and 12 agricultural outbuildings)

11 single family dwellings (not on farmsteads)

4 agricultural outbuildings (not on farmsteads)

3 sites (2 dwellings; 1 store)

The noncontributing resources in the district total 149 buildings, identified with the aid of aerial photographs.

In the following section, general characteristics of each contributing resource type will be described with a detailed description of representative properties.

¹ The names and site numbers of the historic properties are included in the narrative.

Maryland Historical Trust

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Resource Type 1: PONDS WOOD ROAD

Ponds Wood Road today generally follows the same path as it did during the historic period of 1889 to 1958. The only major modification to the road came in the early 1930s, when roads throughout the county were being improved to meet the demands of increased automobile traffic. At that time, the western portion of Ponds Wood Road was straightened and re-graded, and the road surfaced with bituminous material from Maryland Route 2 to Hardesty Road by 1953, and then east to Maryland Route 261 by 1959.

Single family dwellings are concentrated in areas along the western and eastern thirds of Ponds Wood Road. Individual dwellings and groups of buildings and fields comprising the farmsteads originally occupied by first-time African American landowners and their descendants are interspersed with dwellings of residents moving into the area in the 1970s and 1980s. Most of the noncontributing dwellings do not interrupt the visual continuity of the setting, as they are shielded from view by trees. The largest concentrations of noncontributing buildings are on streets in neighborhoods off Ponds Wood Road: Sunrise Drive, Sunrise Court, Moonbeam Avenue, and Starlight Lane. Seemingly more intrusive is a small group of single-family dwellings of recent (post 2001) construction on a cul-de-sac opposite the Allnut Reid property at 3010-3140 Ponds Wood Road.

Ponds Wood Road's origin as a country road connecting farms in the area is evident in vistas along the road beginning at the westernmost section.² Here, a portion of the fields associated with the Elmer C. Ray House, CT-379, fan out along the road to Maryland Route 2/4 on the west, with additional fields south of the dwelling, tobacco barn, and outbuildings at the top of the hill. [Photo 1] On the north side of the road, nearly opposite the Ray property, an unpaved driveway winds down the hill into the woods, past the historic tobacco barn and fields associated with Edward Quill. [Photo 2] This driveway, part of Ponds Wood Road until the road was improved in the early 1930s, formerly led to the Fowler saw mill, according to a long-time resident. Returning to the south side of Ponds Wood Road, on top of a hill is a two-acre farmstead owned by a grandnephew of Joseph John Jones Sr. [Photo 3] The rustic two-room dwelling sits at the east end of the property with the tobacco barn on the west end; a driveway parallel to Ponds Wood Road connects the two. The fields lie north and south of the barn.

Following a group of small single-family dwellings, fields run back from the road toward farmsteads associated with Joseph John Jones Jr. On the north, a dwelling belonging to descendants of Hattie Ray James Graham sits on a hillside surrounded by trees. [Photo 4] Beyond the dwelling stands a tobacco barn with fields on the east and southeast. On the south side, the dwelling of Wilford Harrison Jones, son of Joseph John Jones Jr., is flanked by fields on the south and west. [Photo 5] Beyond the dwelling, at the top of the hill sits a tobacco barn constructed by father and son. Lying to the east and at the same elevation as the tobacco barn is the former dwelling of Joseph John Jones Jr. and his wife, Essie. The dwellings are separated by Harvest Lane which likely served as a farm lane in the first-half of the twentieth century.

A few yards after Harvest Lane, Spears Road branches off Ponds Wood Road on the south. [Photo 6] Spears Road runs southeast parallel to Ponds Wood Road, and then turns south. Lying between Ponds Wood and Spears are two non-contributing dwellings, and the historic dwelling, tobacco barn, and fields of Howard W. Ray and Mary C. Ray at the top of a hill. Pre-1930s, Ponds Wood Road traveled behind the Ray farmstead. When the road was improved, the 48-acre Ray property was divided, and the site of the Rays' first tobacco barn is across the road. Most of the remaining eight acres of the Ray farm lie east of the family's brick dwelling. The path of the old road is still evident as an opening in the trees north of Spears Road. South of Spears Road stretches the fields and agricultural buildings historically associated with the Spears family.

Continuing east on Ponds Wood Road after the Howard and Mary Ray property, there are three noncontributing dwellings on the north. On the south, there is a noncontributing dwelling and then an unpaved driveway leading to the former Spears farmstead, CT-213 (Cox Farm). The lower portion of the driveway was part of Ponds Wood Road until the 1930s. Visible from Ponds Wood is a cottage bungalow which was built c.1940 by Seaward Henry Spears as a tenant dwelling, according to a member of the first family who lived here.³

² This description of Ponds Wood Road is based on a spring 2007 field survey and review of land records supplemented by 2003 and 2006 aerial images of the district provided by the Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning.

³ Telephone interview with Mary E. Holland, 29 May 2007

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The driveway also marks the western boundary of a heavily wooded section south of Ponds Wood Road that continues for nearly .75 mile. On the north side of the Ponds Wood, fields run back from the road to the former dwelling of Thomas W. Ray, CT-104. [Photo 7] A line of cedars flanks the beginning of an abandoned driveway that runs up the hill to the dwelling and corn house. To the east, a paved road, Rolling Hill Road, runs north, back into the woods. Just east of Rolling Hill Road at Ponds Wood is a historic tobacco barn, covered with vegetation, which, like the dwelling, stood on the property when Ray purchased the land in 1903. Although unoccupied, family members maintain the grounds and dwelling, which are in good condition. A number of Ray descendants live in a heavily wooded area at the end of Rolling Hill Road and adjacent Oxcart Road, in noncontributing dwellings.

Continuing east on Ponds Wood, the woods continue on the south side of the road. On the north are three noncontributing dwellings on Terri Lane belonging to Ray descendants. Further along Ponds Wood, fields stretch back to a series of four contributing dwellings either currently or formerly owned by Ray descendants (950, 980, 990, and 1030). North of two of these dwellings, at 950 and 990 Ponds Wood Road, stand tobacco barns. [Photo 8] Behind these barns are woods. A contributing two-room dwelling sits out of view in the woods behind 990.

Continuing east on the north side of Ponds Wood are four noncontributing dwellings on lots of various sizes. After the last house in this group, a gravel driveway leads to the north. The right fork in the driveway leads to the farmstead of Elmer Ray, one of Thomas W. Ray's sons. The family home, a four-square built in 1943, is the only building visible from Ponds Wood Road, as the fields close to the road have been allowed to return to their natural wooded state. The older of Elmer Ray's two tobacco barns sits at some distance north of the house, at the back of an open field. The second Ray barn, constructed about 1947, sits closer to the house, and is reached by following a tractor path north through a small section of woods.

Continuing east after the Elmer Ray property, woods now flank both sides of Ponds Wood Road for approximately .3 miles. After the woods, two noncontributing dwellings on the north are screened by woods, and two similar dwellings on the south are on large open lots. North and south of Ponds Wood Road at this point are two facing streets, Starlight Court and Sunrise Drive, which are screened from the main thoroughfare by trees. Starlight is a short winding road that leads north into the woods and contains five noncontributing dwellings. Sunrise Drive runs directly south until it ends at a woods. Sunrise Drive and an adjoining street, Sunrise Court, contain 20 noncontributing dwellings. Behind 3931 Sunrise Drive, a large barn historically associated with the Lyons farm sits at the top of a hill. (See Moonbeam Avenue below.) On the west side of Sunrise Drive lies a heavily wooded property that was timbered until the mid-1960s and is now scheduled for development as residential subdivision. According to a survey conducted as part of the county's subdivision review process, there are no buildings on the 261 acres, but there is an historic roadbed, the remnants of the planned, yet never completed, Baltimore-Drum Point Railroad.

Continuing east on Ponds Wood, after a short stand of trees on the south lies Moonbeam Avenue. The Thomas W. Sweeney Log Barn, CT-380, no longer stands on the west corner of Moonbeam and Ponds Wood. On its site is a barn constructed in the last decade by the current owner of the property. On the east corner is a noncontributing dwelling that stands on the site of a tenant dwelling belonging to the Lyons family. Further east is a contributing tobacco barn used by the tenants of Joseph and Viola Lyons between 1929 and 1956. On Moonbeam Avenue and its spur, Starlight Lane, there are approximately 18 noncontributing dwellings. On the north side of Ponds Wood Road opposite Moonbeam Avenue are three noncontributing dwellings; a two-story commercial building constructed on the site of the former Lyons grocery store which contains a hairdresser and offices; and east of this building behind a stockade fence, the truck yard for the Stallings Construction Company. East of the truck yard is a stand of woods.

Continuing east on the north side of Ponds Wood Road is Tulip Court where there are approximately six noncontributing dwellings screened from the main thoroughfare by woods. On the south side of Ponds Wood Road is a large, noncontributing dwelling on an open lot. Continuing east, two noncontributing dwellings on wooded lots are on the north, and three noncontributing dwellings, one screened by woods, sit on the south side.

Continuing east on Ponds Wood Road, a line of trees block a view of extensive fields on the north. These fields, which at one time included a landing strip for a small private plane, now lie fallow. Four noncontributing dwellings sit on wooded lots on large parcels of land south of the road. One of the houses is reached by a curving driveway flanked by cedar trees. Before reaching the house, east of the driveway is a mid-century tobacco barn. Documentary evidence associates the property with white owners during

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the historic period. Another tobacco barn sits some distance away northeast of this barn, at a place where the road curves south. This barn sits among six acres of fields planted with corn.

On the north side of Ponds Wood opposite the tobacco barn, beyond a field, sits a neglected farmstead which was for sale at the time of the survey. Its unpaved driveway leads from Ponds Wood Road back to a group of farm buildings. A noncontributing dwelling, from about 1960, sits in the foreground of the group, and to the rear is a large tobacco barn dating from the late eighteenth to early nineteenth century. The barn measures approximately 64 by 76 feet overall and is clad with vertical wood siding. The oldest portion of the structure has mortise-and-tenon joinery, with shed additions of later date on the north, south, and east elevations. Part of the standing-seam metal roof has fallen in. The barn is currently used for storage, but during the historic period, first-time African-American landowner Allnut Reid rented it from the white Welch family to hang tobacco grown on his property at 3010 Ponds Wood Road.

East of the Welch property at the rear of a large open lot is a noncontributing dwelling which stands on the site of an historic house known as Robinson's Rest, CT-21. The Welch tobacco barn is thought to have been part of this property. The house was moved to another location in the early 1990s. A privy belonging to the historic house sits northeast of the current dwelling, and a large garage is under construction on the south.

Continuing east on Ponds Wood Road, power lines cross the road in a north-south alignment. Following the power lines, Guy Hardesty Road branches north off Ponds Wood Road. East of Guy Hardesty Road, surrounded by uncultivated fields are two large tobacco barns which were built in the mid-twentieth century by the Nicholson family.⁴ The roofs and wood siding of both barns are painted red, and the barn on the west has a gambrel roof. A driveway between the barns curves north to a modern ranch house and a workshop/garage as well as a pond at the back of the property.

Opposite the former Nicholson farm is the western boundary of the 125 acres purchased in 1930 by Jesse Reid. Reid's son, Ridgely Reid, and his wife, Lovelett, began farming here in the 1940s. The property includes two noncontributing dwellings, one a manufactured home, as well as the Reid dwelling, a mid-century vernacular bungalow which sits within 20 feet of Ponds Wood Road. At the back of the house is the Reid's tobacco barn, constructed c. 1958-59. The associated fields run east along Ponds Wood Road and stretch back to woods south and west of the tobacco barn. In summer 2007, approximately 12 acres were planted in corn. [Photo 9]

Continuing east on Ponds Wood Road, there are two noncontributing dwellings on the south, and six noncontributing dwellings on the north side of the road. Lying in a gully near the houses on the north is the site of a former grain mill that belonged to Warren Parran, son of James T. and Christianna R. Parran. The terrain rises sharply to the north, and near the top of the hill sit a group of noncontributing dwellings that belong to the descendants of Leroy Greene, who with his brother Almos, purchased 67 acres of land in 1944 from Warren and Mildred Ray Parran. Greene's house sits on a rise to the southeast of the modern dwellings. The house, tobacco barn, and sheds belonging to Greene lie at the end of a long driveway which is flanked on both sides by former tobacco fields. [Photo 10] Almos Greene lived in the house sitting on a higher hill to the east, listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties as CT-252, the Carl Parran House. The house is currently being demolished by the owners.

Directly across the street from the Carl Parran House is the dwelling of Jesse Reid on Faith Lane, known as the Bessie Reid House, CT-253. [Photo 11] Reid enlarged the original dwelling in the 1940s, adding a two-and-a-half story, central gable section on the north facing Ponds Wood Road. Fields stretch on either side of the lane leading to the farm complex consisting of the dwelling, two tobacco barns – one from the eighteenth century – a stable, and a number of sheds. North of the complex at the intersection of Faith Lane and Ponds Wood Road is a noncontributing dwelling belonging to a member of the Reid family. To the west of this dwelling is a tobacco barn that was formerly part of the Reid property. While in this area south of Ponds Wood the terrain is not as hilly, the open fields in front of the Reid dwelling ensure that it maintains a prominent position in the countryside. Beyond the farmstead and out of view are two noncontributing dwellings belonging to members of the Reid family.

East of the Parran house on the north side of Ponds Wood Road is Holbrook Lane. Eight noncontributing dwellings line Holbrook, with two contributing buildings – a stable and tobacco barn formerly belonging to the Parrans – on the west side of the lane.

⁴ Interview with Lovelett Reid, 2355 Ponds Wood Road, 19 May 2007

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The stable is visible from Holbrook, while the barn sits up on a hill surrounded by woods. Ten noncontributing dwellings lie on streets branching off of Holbrook Lane, including Merry Way, Loving Way, and Pleasant Court.

Continuing east on Ponds Wood Road, on the south are a group of small farmsteads belonging to descendants of Jesse Reid. The tobacco barn of Graham and Alice Brown, Reid's daughter, sits nearly on the road as Ponds Wood turns to the south. [Fig. 12] The family's frame dwelling sits at the end of a short, curving drive on a hill just southeast of the barn. The tobacco fields lying south of the barn and dwelling have returned to their natural wooded state. To the east of the Brown property, the road travels southeast. After a noncontributing dwelling and a field, there is a dwelling and tobacco barn constructed c. 1950 for Russell Reid, one of Jesse Reid's sons. The barn is separated from the road by a small grassy area, and is reached by way of a tractor path west of the paved area in front of the house. The land falls off steeply behind the house, and both dwelling and tobacco barn are built into a hill. An open machinery shed, which also held curing tobacco as needed, is built into the hill east of the house. The house has been thoroughly altered by the present owner, a grandson of the Reids. The fields associated with the property lie south and southwest of the buildings.

North of this property, east of Holbrook Lane, is part of the 200 acres that was purchased in 1904 by James T. and Christianna R. Parran. In 1938, 130 acres of the land was given by Christianna to their daughter, Elizabeth (Lizzie) Thomas. The land was later purchased by Dorothy and Benjamin Jones. The Jones' raised tobacco until the early 1970s, and their 1961 tobacco barn sits up on the hill behind the noncontributing dwelling at 2940 Ponds Wood Road. Six noncontributing dwellings lie to the east, three on Houston Lane, and three on Ponds Wood Road, one of which, 2980 Ponds Wood, stands on the site of the dwelling belonging to Lizzie Thomas.

Continuing east on the south side of Ponds Wood Road there are three noncontributing dwellings. The land falls off steeply to the south here, and there are three noncontributing dwellings on Dot Lane. Back on Ponds Wood Road, there is a noncontributing dwelling sitting close to the road, and then, on top of a hill near where the road turns to the north, is a bungalow which is a former tenant house constructed for Talmage Hutchins. The current owner, Elizabeth Jones, and her late husband, Mervin Jones Jr., obtained the house and one acre from Hutchins in 1950-51. The land drops off steeply behind the house.

On the north side of Ponds Wood Road, nearly opposite the Jones house, are dwellings belonging to descendants of Allnut Reid. Reid, brother of Jesse Reid, purchased 108 acres in 1940 from the Soper family. There is a group of three noncontributing dwellings here, along with a garage for the Reid school bus company. The buses are parked at the back of the property which is screened from the road by trees. Continuing east on Ponds Wood, the landscape opens up on the north. Fields belonging to the Allnut Reid farm stretch back from the road, past the historic dwelling on the hill and out of sight. [Photo 13] An abandoned driveway lies on the east side of the house, and is bordered on the west by cedars. The driveway curves to the west at the back of the house and runs to the farmyard, the tobacco barn, and stable. The steepness of the hill limits the view of the outbuildings from Ponds Wood Road. The Reid property is wooded on its northern and western perimeters. A paved driveway to the east of the house leads to the brick ranch home (noncontributing) of one of Reid's daughters, Beatrice Jane Fletcher, and to another noncontributing dwelling beyond. Fields stretch downhill away from the Fletcher home on the north, south, and east. Further east is a stretch of woods that runs along Ponds Wood Road for approximately 700 feet.

Opposite the Reid farm on the south side of Ponds Wood Road, is Quail Court, which has six noncontributing dwellings built on land owned by the Hutchins family during the historic period. Only the dwelling at the corner of Quail Court and Ponds Wood disrupts the rural setting. Ponds Wood Road turns south at this point. The view of a noncontributing dwelling on the south side is blocked by trees. The trees continue for about 500 feet on the south before reaching Ponds Wood Court, a cul-de-sac with six noncontributing dwellings.

Opposite Ponds Wood Court on the north is a private lane leading through the trees to several noncontributing dwellings and a group of buildings belonging to a school bus contractor. Continuing east, after a stretch of woods, are three modest dwellings belonging to the children of Warren Gorman, a tenant farmer who purchased five acres of land from Talmage Hutchins in 1947. Gorman's house, a one-and-a-half story, side-gable semi-bungalow, has fields to the north and south and faces Bayside Road, Maryland Route 261, the eastern boundary of Ponds Wood Road.

For more than 100 years, Ponds Wood Road has been the primary thoroughfare linking the farms, buildings, and structures belonging to the families of first-time African American landowners to each other and to the rest of Calvert County. The road's

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winding path over hilly terrain, edged on both sides by woods, was carved out by tobacco farmers in the nineteenth century. The location of buildings and fields along the road was dictated by the land and by tradition, which promulgated the placement of tobacco barns close by fields and sited to promote air curing of tobacco. As in other rural communities, the land was divided among the first landowners' descendants, creating farms along the road as small as 1 ½ acres and resulting in clusters of homes belonging to members of the same family. Farming on Ponds Wood Road has continued, albeit on a much smaller scale since 1970, and the "money crop" in 2007 is corn, not tobacco. With relatively few visual intrusions, the history of the community remains written on the landscape of Ponds Wood Road.

Resource Type 2: TOBACCO BARNs

The dominant building type identified during field investigations on Ponds Wood Road is the tobacco barn. These buildings represent several different historical eras due to the dominance of tobacco as the primary cash crop in Calvert County for more than 300 years. Used by African-American tenant farmers and first-time landowners in the early to mid-twentieth century, most of the 24 tobacco barns on Ponds Wood Road date from the twentieth century, although several appear to have been constructed in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The tobacco barns are dispersed throughout the Ponds Wood Road community, some sitting above the road on hillsides and others hugging the main thoroughfare. A few barns are located in gullies or built into slopes. This flexibility in siting reflects a late nineteenth-century dictum quoted in a Maryland Historical Trust survey publication:

...to minimize "waste of time by inconsiderate and useless location," tobacco barns were generally "erected by the side of each respective piece of tobacco ground; sometimes in the woods upon some hill or particular site which may be convenient to more than one field of tobacco."⁵

The publication notes that, for this reason, Calvert County tobacco barns are not necessarily integrated into a farm complex. However, on Ponds Wood Road, 16 of the historic tobacco barns identified are situated close to farm dwellings. This reflects the fact that the large tracts purchased in the community by the first African-American landowners were divided among many children (and later grandchildren) who then resided on the land and constructed a tobacco barn nearby for curing their few acres of tobacco.

The following section begins with a discussion of general characteristics of Calvert County tobacco barns and then provides a description of specific contributing resources found in the Ponds Wood Road community.

Tobacco Barn Plans

By far the predominant layout of the tobacco barns along Ponds Wood Road, as in most of Calvert County, is the three-bay plan, with passage perpendicular to the ridge.⁶ This plan is evident in tobacco barns predating the historic period as well as in those constructed in the mid-twentieth century. Very few of the barns are of the "drive-through" type: long and low with large doors in the gable end. New to the county in the first quarter of the twentieth century, this plan allowed for greater efficiency, since fewer people are needed to hang tobacco, and large door openings permitted tractor access.⁷ Of the 13 Ponds Wood Road community tobacco barns identified as constructed mid-century, i.e., from the 1940s through 1960, only four are of the single- or double-aisle drive-through type.

The reason for the persistence of the traditional three-bay plan likely reflects the tobacco farmer's reliance on personal experience and on the inter-generational transmission of knowledge to guide farming practice. The importance of these factors was noted by Kirk E. Ranzetta in his study of tobacco barns in nearby St. Mary's County.⁸

⁵ Maryland Historical Trust, *Inventory of Historic Sites in Calvert County, Charles County, and St. Mary's County*, Crownsville: Maryland Historical Trust, 1980, 3

⁶ *Calvert County Tobacco Culture Survey*, Part III, 13-14

⁷ *Ibid.*, 14

⁸ Kirk E. Ranzetta, "The Myth of Agricultural Complacency: Tobacco Barns of St. Mary's County, Maryland, 1790-1890," in Kenneth A. Breisch and Alison K. Hoagland, eds., *Building Environmental Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture*, Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press.

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Size

The tobacco barns in the Ponds Wood Road community range in size from about 12 by 24 feet to 64 by 76 feet, with most of the buildings approximating the 24 by 40 feet dimensions that characterize barns with traditional plans. The tobacco barns longer than 40 feet in length are usually of the drive-through type. Many of the barns appear tall in relation to their length and width. This is a characteristic feature of tobacco barns on Ponds Wood Road and observable throughout the county, reflecting again the reliance on experience and tradition in barn construction.

In field interviews, community residents were more likely to describe the size of a tobacco barn in terms of "rooms" or "tiers" than in linear measurements. Each room is a four-foot-wide interior section of the barn, e.g., a 24-foot-wide barn will have six rooms.⁹ This dimension is driven by the four-foot tobacco stick, which holds tobacco leaves during curing. The tobacco sticks are suspended from tier poles; these poles consisted of small peeled logs in many of the barns on Ponds Wood Road.

Barn Sheds

Six of the historic tobacco barns in the Ponds Wood Road community possess shed additions. In some instances, the sheds were constructed at the same time as the barn, with the barn roof covering the shed structure. Traditionally, sheds have been used for a variety of purposes, including hanging tobacco, storing tools, and housing cattle.¹⁰

Stripping Rooms

After tobacco is cured, the leaves are stripped from the tobacco stick and bundled. This work takes place in the fall and winter to prepare the crop for market in the spring. While stripping customarily took place either inside the tobacco barn or out of doors, specialized rooms for stripping began to be constructed in Calvert County around 1930.¹¹ Of the 24 historic tobacco barns on Ponds Wood Road, 12 have stripping rooms. Nine of these are within barns, two rooms are additions to barn exteriors, and one is a stand-alone shed.

Construction Techniques and Materials

Most of the historic tobacco barns on Ponds Wood Road are constructed with circular sawn lumber and wire nails, although three of the barns -- 2110 and 3140 Ponds Wood Road, and 3951 Moonbeam Avenue -- have timber framed sections with mortise and tenon joinery (with wooden pegs). Wood sills are typically supported by piers of either poured concrete or concrete block or cinder block. The barns are generally sheathed with vertical wood siding, in most cases left unpainted. The roofs are either of corrugated or standing-seam metal.

Controlling the movement of air within the barn is important to ensure even curing, and the historic barns on Ponds Wood Road reflect changing practice in this area. In early barns, the air-curing process was controlled by barn location, design (gaps between siding, sill and ground, and walls and gable), and the regulation of air flow through opening and closing of doors. By the early twentieth century, tobacco barns in Southern Maryland were being constructed with vertical ventilators made from one to four boards each.¹² Most of the historic barns on Ponds Wood Road have ventilators of one or two boards. In some cases, these ventilators were added after the original construction. Later barns have more ventilators than barns constructed early in the historic period.

As in other agricultural communities, succeeding generations of owners have adapted the plan and function of Ponds Wood Road tobacco barns to meet their needs.¹³ Most of the barns are now used for storage of disparate items, from hay to old tractors to building materials. In most of the barns, a pile of tobacco sticks stacked in a corner serve as a reminder of the reason the barn was built 50, 100, or 200 years ago.

⁹ Increasing the length of a barn affords more space to hang tobacco, but the number of rooms remains the same.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ *Calvert County Tobacco Culture Survey, Part II*, 32

¹² *Calvert County Tobacco Culture Survey, Part III*, 18

¹³ "The Myth of Agriculture Complacency," 83

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The following section describes representative examples of tobacco barns constructed in different eras and used by African-American tenants and landowners on Ponds Wood Road.

Tobacco Barns in the Ponds Wood Road Community

I. Construction date: Late eighteenth to first half nineteenth century

3010 Ponds Wood Road

(Photo 14, Fig. 1)

This tobacco barn is situated on the 108 acres of land purchased by Neeld Estate tenant farmers Allnut and Essie Reid for \$1,200 from the heirs of Mary E. Soper in 1940.¹⁴ The land was part of 200 acres purchased in 1897 by Mary's husband, John W. Soper, from Eliza Estelle Dorsey, and had been in the Dorsey family for at least 20 years. The 200 acres originally purchased by John W. Soper was part of Robinson's Rest, a seventeenth-century land grant to Henry Robinson comprising 1,150 acres.¹⁵

The barn is on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, CT-102, although the documentation available online and in the vertical file at the Maryland Historical Trust consists only of a title page and a photograph taken in 1976. More information is contained on an incomplete inventory form in the historic property files of the Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning. An addendum to the MIHP form for this property will be completed as part of the current survey.

The barn is oriented on an east-west axis. According to the 1976 survey, the tobacco barn measures 60 feet, 7 inches by 52 feet, with the original section of the barn measuring 32 by 24 feet. This early section has a transverse sill which divides the floor into 1/3 and 2/3. The sills, beams, and braces are fastened using mortise and tenon joinery with pegs. Tier poles are small logs with bark and branches stripped off. A hole in the dirt floor in the northeast section is a "kiln," or cellar for storing potatoes and cabbages.¹⁶

The original barn was expanded with shed additions on all four sides prior to its purchase by the Allnut Reid. The barn roof was replaced after the sheds were added, and is covered with standing-seam and corrugated metal panels. There are three lightning rods along the ridge. A dormer-like structure for ventilation centered on the roof ridge that was noted during the 1976 survey is no longer present.

The walls of the barn are of vertical wood siding. There are three sets of double doors of varying heights on the north and south elevations, and two single doors on the east.

In 2007, Jesse and Ruth Reid received a grant from the Tobacco Barn Restoration Fund¹⁷ to assist in the barn's renovation. The process began in the spring and as of June, the roof has been painted silver and siding on south and west elevations has been replaced. The interior of the building is unchanged.

In addition to the tobacco barn, other standing buildings and structures on the Allnut and Essie Reid farmstead include a dwelling (described further in the "Dwellings" section), corn house, and stable with attached stripping room. Tobacco leaves still hang in the stable, which was used as extra space for curing tobacco in the early fall. Almost completely collapsed are a combination garage and chicken house and a privy.

¹⁴ A survey map of the property is part of Liber AAH 44, Folio 530 (Land records of Calvert County, MD)

¹⁵ Stein, *A History of Calvert County, Maryland*, 306. The Dorsey and Soper deeds refer to the property as "Robertson's Rest," but according to archivist Karen Atkins of the Calvert County Historical Society, this is an early error that was copied in later documents.

¹⁶ Interview with Jesse Reid, Ruth Reid, and Beatrice Jane Fletcher, 3016 Ponds Wood Road, 23 April 2007

¹⁷ The Tobacco Barn Restoration Fund is administered by Preservation Maryland with support from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Maryland Historical Trust, and local organizations

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Additional barns from approximately the same period

2210 Ponds Wood Road

(Photo 15, Fig. 2)

This large tobacco barn was rented from the Welch family by Allnut Reid to hang tobacco raised on his land, according to his son.¹⁸ The Welch family owned the property from 1950 to 1955. The barn is described in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties form for the "John Johnson House/Robinson's Rest," CT-21. Johnson owned the property between 1965 and 1973; he had purchased the land from Lottie Smith, who owned it after the Welchs. According to the MIHP form, the earliest portion of the tobacco barn may date to 1824. This barn is part of a farm complex that includes four sheds and a dwelling of a later date of construction. The barn measures 64 by 76 feet and is clad with vertical wood siding. The oldest portion of the barn, with mortise and tenon joinery, appears to have a shed as part of its original construction, similar to another tobacco barn in the Huntingtown area recorded in the Calvert County Tobacco Barn Survey, CT-1029.¹⁹ The barn is flanked on the north, south, and east side with later shed additions. In the east shed is a stripping room which may have once stood outside. The barn roof is covered with standing seam metal. A portion of the roof on the south elevation has fallen in, and doors on all four elevations are missing. The barn is currently used for storage. The 21-acre property the barn stands on also includes a mid-twentieth-century dwelling and four sheds and was for sale in spring 2007.

3951 Moonbeam Avenue

(Photo 16, Fig. 3)

This tobacco barn was on the approximately 266 acres of land purchased by Joseph and Viola Lyons in 1929 from the heirs of Henry Williams. While research indicated that the property has never been owned by African Americans, the barn was used by the Lyons' African-American tenants through the mid-twentieth century. At least one of the Lyons' tenants, Benjamin and Dorothy Jones, subsequently purchased land on Ponds Wood Road.

The Lyons barn measures approximately 60 by 24 feet with an attached shed measuring approximately 60 by 14 feet. Its gable roof has a standing-seam metal covering; the walls are clad with vertical wood siding. The wood sill, continuous on the gable ends, rests on concrete block piers.

The barn appears to be the product of two different periods. The western section of the barn and shed, 32 by 24 feet, and 32 by 14 feet respectively, was constructed between the second half of the eighteenth century and the first half of the nineteenth century. The beams and posts of this section are of pit-sawn and hand-hewn lumber. Joints are mortise and tenon with pegs and open face dovetail notches. The eastern section of the barn and shed, 28 by 24 feet, and 28 by 14 feet respectively, was constructed after 1880. The lumber is circular sawn and it is fastened with wire nails. After the barn was expanded it was re-roofed. Access to the interior is through two sets of double doors on the north and south elevations perpendicular to the gable.

The building has been altered to meet storage needs of the current owner. The tier poles have been removed to the level of the roof plate. The floor is paved with concrete. The width of the double doors in the east section has been increased. A loft has been added to the east section. While the barn is sound, there is some fire damage of unknown date to the shed. The shed sheltered livestock during the historic period.

II. Construction date: late nineteenth century

3950 Faith Lane

(Photo 17)

This tobacco barn is part of the 125 acres purchased for \$2,500 in 1930 by Breezy Point tenant farmer Jesse H. Reid (AKA Jessie Reed) and his wife, Lydia M. Jones Reid, from the heirs of John W. Soper. It is the older of two tobacco barns southeast of the

¹⁸ Interview with Jesse Reid, 23 April 2007

¹⁹ CT-1029, Hance Barn 'A,' Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties. Available on the World Wide Web: <http://www.mdihp.net>

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dwelling, and may date to the third quarter of the nineteenth century according to an earlier survey (although family tradition holds that it is 300 years old). The buildings and structures at this address are on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties as "Bessie Reid House," CT-253.²⁰ An addendum is being created to update the form with information gathered during the current survey. Current fieldwork suggests that the barn may have been constructed as early as 1830, since rectangular barns with original sheds located on the south side such as this one began to be constructed around that date.²¹

Additional barn from approximately the same period:

780 Ponds Wood Road

This tobacco barn was one of the buildings standing on the 334 acres of land purchased in 1903 by Thomas W. Ray. Characterized on earlier surveys as a late nineteenth-century tobacco barn (See CT-104), it is covered with vertical wood siding and has a corrugated metal roof. At the time of the survey in spring 2007, vegetation was threatening to engulf the structure.

III. Construction date: late nineteenth to first third of twentieth century

50 Ponds Wood Road

(Photo 18, Fig. 4)

The land on which this barn was built was purchased for \$70 in 1889 by African-American farmer Edward Quill from Virgil and Eliza Cox.²² The gravel road that passes south of the barn was a section of the "old" Ponds Wood Road (before 1937) and led to Fowler's Mill on the east.²³ The barn may have been constructed by Quill or by his son-in-law, David Jones, also a farmer. In 1939, Marjorie Gibson Spear, wife of Seaward Henry Spear, purchased the property.

The 32-by-28-foot barn was constructed with wire nails and circular sawn lumber. Concrete block piers support the sill. Vertical wood siding covers the exterior and the barn has a standing seam-metal roof. Although the traditional plan dominated tobacco barn design in the region until the mid-twentieth century, other plans were also used, and this barn is an example of the single-aisle plan. Because the double doors at the gable ends are not centered, the barn may originally have been constructed as a single aisle offset, or the entrance may have been moved with the addition of a shed on the south side which was incorporated under a single roof.

The tier poles consist of peeled logs, and a pile of tobacco sticks lies along the northwest wall. A small enclosed room (approximately 8 by 10 feet) which may have been used for stripping tobacco sits in the southeast corner of the barn. On the exterior, this area is covered with sheets of standing-seam metal. The interior of the room is illuminated by three windows: two on the south and one on the east. The fields east and west of the barn are cultivated; a steep wooded slope rises close to the north elevation of the barn.

Board and batten siding on some surfaces indicate that the building may have been used to house animals at some time. Despite minor alterations, the barn appears to possess original materials, design, and workmanship. It is now used for hay storage.

4030 and 4150 Holbrook Lane

(Photos 19 and 20; Figs. 5 and 6)

This tobacco barn is on land purchased in 1904 by James T. and Christianna R. Parran from Joseph J. Essex. The purchase price for 200 acres was \$2,000. Christianna's brother, Robert W. Ray Jr., held a \$1,100 mortgage for the property which was released in 1905. In 1938, the now widowed Christianna sold 67 acres of the property with buildings to her son, Warren Parran, and Mildred Ray (later

²⁰CT-253. Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form. Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.

²¹"Tobacco Barns, Calvert County, Maryland," brochure. Prince Frederick, Maryland: Calvert County Historic District Commission.

²²The final payment was made in 1895 and the deed to Edward Quill was issued by the widowed Eliza at that time.

²³Telephone interview with Eloise Ray, 20 April 2007.

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Parran). In 1945, the tract was purchased by former tenant farmers Leroy Greene and Almos Greene (AKA Green). The barn, together with a stable at 4030 Holbrook, belonged to the Parrans, according to one of Leroy Greene's sons.²⁴

The approximately 30-by-20-foot tobacco barn is set on an east-west axis. It is of traditional plan, with three bays and main passage perpendicular to the ridge. All of the lumber is circular sawn and joined with wire nails. The exterior is covered with vertical wood siding and there is a standing-seam metal roof. The sill rests on concrete block piers. There are double doors centered on the long sides and single doors in each gable end. The door on the west was truncated with the later construction of a concrete block addition which may have been used as a stripping room. The addition measures approximately 13 feet, 6 inches by 20 feet. There are four windows in the addition, two on the west, and one each on the north and south, and a door on the south.

Lying at the bottom of a hill south of the barn is the stable. The stable measures approximately 16 by 26 feet and rests on concrete block piers. It is covered in board and batten wood siding and the gable roof is of corrugated metal. There is a double door with metal hinges located on the east elevation and a small door in the south gable. The interior space is divided into stalls for animals, and there are tiers of small peeled logs for hanging tobacco. The lumber is circular sawn and joined with wire nails. The roughly sawn wood may indicate a construction date in the early twentieth century, predating the barn at the top of the hill. Both the barn and the stable are no longer in use.

4470 Harvest Lane

(Photos 21 and 22; Fig. 7)

This tobacco barn sits at the top of a hill on part of the land purchased in 1905 by Joseph John Jones Sr. from Robert J. Norfolk, and conveyed to his son, Joseph John Jones Jr., and his wife, Essie, in 1912. In 1954, the Jones conveyed a portion of the property to their son, Wilford Harrison Jones, and his wife, Freida. This barn apparently was part of the Joseph Jones Jr. farmstead. Wilford Harrison Jones' dwelling is southeast of the barn, and his late parents' home stands to the east at 4475 Harvest Lane.

The large barn, approximately 60 by 20 feet, was built by the now 88-year-old Jones, and his father, probably no earlier than 1930.²⁵ The barn is aligned on a north-south axis, and is of the traditional three-bay plan with main access perpendicular to the ridge. It is clad in vertical wood siding and the roof is covered with standing seam metal. The sill rests on cast concrete piers. There are tall, single doors in the north and south elevations, and double doors in both the east and west elevations. There are numerous ventilators, primarily on the east and west, which appear to have been added later. The ventilators have stops made of small blocks of wood.

This barn has an interior stripping room in the southeast corner. It is illuminated with three windows, two on the east and one on the south. The tier poles are peeled logs. The barn is now used for storage, including tobacco sticks. There are open fields to the north and west of the barn. Another, larger barn, stood to the east of this one, but was destroyed by a strong wind in 2003 or 2004. Mr. Jones no longer farms his land, although he helps another tobacco farmer in the area with his crop.

IV. Construction date: Mid-twentieth century

2955 Ponds Wood Road

(Photo 23, Fig. 8)

This tobacco barn stands on a part of the land purchased in 1930 by Jesse and Lydia Reid from the heirs of John W. Soper. In 1946, the Reids conveyed this property to Russell Reid and his wife, Eva. Russell and Eva's grandson, Sidney Brooks, the current owner, believes that his grandparents built the house, barn, and shed that stand on the property.²⁶ The farm complex belonging to Jesse Reid lies approximately 500 feet to the west.

This tobacco barn is unusual in that it is built into a slope, and not set on a hillside or hill top. On the one and one-half acre, sloping lot, this was probably the most advantageous location. The natural slope also allowed for the later addition of a semi-

²⁴ Interview with George Greene Sr., 3140 Ponds Wood Road, 12 April 2007

²⁵ Interview with Wilford Harrison Jones, 4470 Harvest Lane, 10 May 2007

²⁶ Interview with Sydney Brooks, 2955 Ponds Wood Road, 19 April 2007

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subterranean concrete block stripping room on the south elevation. According to the Tobacco Culture Survey, subterranean stripping rooms were preferred in the late twentieth century because the dampness aided "in keeping the tobacco in order."²⁷

The 32-by-24-foot barn is set on a north-south axis, and boasts a traditional, three-bay plan with main access perpendicular to the ridge. The barn is clad in vertical wood siding and has a standing-seam metal roof. The sill rests on concrete block piers. There are two ventilators each on the east, west, and north elevations.

The concrete block stripping room has one window in the southeast corner and two windows on the south. The metal frame windows have brick sills. There is an opening in the southwest corner which may have contained a door. The stripping room contains a wood stove which is situated along the south wall.

A description of the other buildings and the setting is contained in the later section on the third property type, Farmsteads.

2355 Ponds Wood Road

(Photo 24, Fig. 9)

This tobacco barn stands on the farmstead of Ridgely and Lovelett Reid. The Reids moved here in 1941, and the 2.12-acre tract was conveyed to the couple by Ridgely's parents, Jesse and Lydia Reid, in 1958. Later, Ridgeley and Lovelett Reid acquired sole interest in an additional 15 acres.

The barn measures 30 by 24 feet. It was constructed c. 1958-1960 and has a double-aisle, drive-through plan. It is aligned on a north-south axis. There are two pairs of double doors on the north and south elevations. The barn is constructed of circular-sawn lumber joined with wire nails, clad in vertical wood siding, and the gable roof is covered with standing seam metal. There is no stripping room.

The barn is currently used for storage. It retains its original materials, design, and setting. The barn and surrounding fields are still owned by the family, and the fields are regularly cultivated, strengthening the barn's association with the historic period. In June 2007, approximately 12 acres are in corn.

Additional tobacco barns from approximately the same period

201 Ponds Wood Road

Howard Jones bought two acres of land from his cousin, Olivia Jones Howe, who received the property in 1937 from her father, Joseph John Jones Sr. This tobacco barn was constructed in 1942 by Howard's brother, Henry Jones, who lived in the two-room dwelling on the property that he also constructed.²⁸ The barn is clad with vertical wood siding and has a standing-seam metal roof. It has a traditional three-bay plan.

510 Ponds Wood Road

Hattie James, daughter of Elmer Ray, purchased 17.5 acres of land from Joseph J. Jones Jr. in 1943, part of the land he had received from his father in 1912. The tobacco barn is a single-aisle, drive-through plan that dates from the mid-twentieth century. It is clad with vertical wood siding, painted red, and the roof has a standing-seam metal covering. Fields lie to the east and southeast of the barn. A description of the other buildings and the setting is contained in the later section on the third resource type, Farmsteads.

950 Ponds Wood Road

This tobacco barn stands on a portion of a 10-acre parcel given by Thomas W. Ray to Mary Ray and her children, including Olivia Ray, later Olivia Howe, in 1948. Mary Ray was the widow of Ray's son, Thomas G. Ray, who died in 1933. According to Mrs. Howe's daughter, the barn was constructed for her parents in the 1940s.²⁹ It has a traditional three-bay plan and measures

²⁷ *Tobacco Culture Survey, Part III*, 32

²⁸ Telephone interview with Oscar Jones, Howard and Henry Jones' nephew, 31 May 2007

²⁹ Telephone interview with Pandora Brooks, 20 June 2007

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approximately 24 by 48 feet. The barn's vertical wood siding has been heavily patched. Situated northeast of the barn is a small two-room cabin that Olivia and her husband, Everard, lived in when they were first married. The barn is now owned by Mrs. Howe's daughter.

4475 Harvey Lane

This tobacco barn was constructed by Genius Jones, a former tenant farmer who purchased 50 acres of land from Richard Parran Harvey in 1946. Jones built the tobacco barn in 1947, according to one of his daughters.³⁰ The barn measures 46 by 22 feet and is a traditional three-bay plan. An integrated stripping room occupies the north side of the interior.

136 Turnabout Lane

This tobacco barn stands on land formerly owned by Richard Parran Harvey. Harvey was a tenant farmer on Lower Marlboro Road when he purchased 135 acres from heirs of Joseph John Jones Sr. in 1942.³¹ The tobacco barn was constructed by Harvey, according to his son.³² The barn measures approximately 56 by 22 feet. It is a traditional three-bay plan. There is an integrated stripping room on the north side. The doors on the east and west elevation are missing and the tier poles have been removed. Located nearby at 150 Turnabout is a house constructed by Richard Parran Harvey on the site of the dwelling of Joseph John Jones Sr. According to land records, the house was constructed in 1968.

990 Ponds Wood Road

In 1952 Thomas W. Ray gave his daughter Mildred Ray Parran two acres of land on which this tobacco barn stands. The construction methods and materials indicate the barn was constructed in the mid-twentieth century. In 1960, Parran sold the property to Almos and Zara Greene, who had recently sold the land they had purchased with Almos' brother Leroy in 1945. The barn measures 24 by 28 feet and has a single-aisle, drive-through plan. There is a separate stripping shed. Land records indicate that the dwelling on the property was constructed in 1960.

2785 Ponds Wood Road

The tobacco barn is on property belonging to the daughter of Alice and Graham Brown. Alice Brown and her husband were given 2 ½ acres in 1939 by her parents, Jesse and Lydia Reid. The construction method and materials indicate that the barn was constructed in the first half of the twentieth century. It measures approximately 24 by 12 feet and has a single-aisle plan. According to land records, the dwelling on property was constructed in 1940.

675 Ponds Wood Road

This tobacco barn stands on property given to Howard and Mary Ray by Howard's parents, Thomas W. and Amelia Ray, in 1927. The barn was likely constructed in the first half of the twentieth century and is clad in vertical wood siding. It measures approximately 20 by 36 feet and has a traditional, three-bay plan. The vents appear to have been added after original construction. The barn is part of a farmstead that originally comprised 48 acres. The site of the couple's first tobacco barn is located northwest of this barn, on the north side of Ponds Wood Road.

3950 Faith Lane

In addition to the late nineteenth-century barn described earlier in this section, there are two other barns associated with the Jesse Reid property. The first stands to the northeast of the old barn and was constructed by Reid in the second quarter of the twentieth century,

³⁰ Telephone interview with Ruby Jones, 21 June 2007

³¹ Telephone interview with Eloise Ray, 17 May 2007

³² Telephone interview with Richard Harvey, 2 June 2007

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according to an earlier survey. The barn has vertical wood siding and a standing seam metal roof. The interior of the barn was not examined. South of this barn is a stable, identified on the earlier survey as a barn. The stable is in ruins.

The second tobacco barn constructed by Reid in the early 1940s sits northwest of the dwelling near 2335 Ponds Wood Road.³³ The gable-roofed barn has a standing-seam metal roof and is clad in vertical wood siding. It has a shed on the southeast elevation.

Resource Type 3. FARMSTEADS

The impressive number of early and mid-twentieth-century farmsteads still intact on Ponds Wood Road is primarily due to the fact that much of the property remains in the hands of the African-American families who purchased the land during the historic period. During March-May field investigations, 14 farmsteads, consisting of at least a dwelling, tobacco barn, and associated tobacco field(s) were identified.

Four of these Ponds Wood Road farmsteads are already included in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties: the Elmer C. Ray House (CT-379); Bessie Reid House (CT-253); Tobacco Barn (CT-102); and the Ray House (CT-104). As part of the current survey project, these properties were visited in order to update previous documentation. Addenda are being created which record physical changes to the properties since the time of the earlier surveys and include additional information not previously recorded.

One of the 10 newly identified farmsteads is the farm of Leroy Greene, who with his brother, Almos, purchased 65 acres of land from Warren and Mildred Ray Parran in 1945. The other nine farmsteads were established by children or grandchildren of Joseph J. Jones, Thomas W. Ray, and Jesse Reid.

Composition of Farmsteads

Because proximity to fields is the most important factor in the siting of tobacco barns, it is unusual to find so many of the tobacco barns on Ponds Wood Road in proximity to a dwelling and other agricultural outbuildings. Sixteen of the 24 barns sit close to a farm dwelling. This may be a reflection of the relatively small size of farms in the community at the end of the historic period. It should be noted that five of the eight isolated tobacco barns may be associated with an existing dwelling or dwelling site with land division in the late twentieth century severing the original spatial relationship.

The buildings and structures found on Ponds Wood Road farmsteads are similar to those on other Calvert County farms of the era. These farm complexes serve to meet "the basic building needs of a rural community," and encompass tenant houses, meat houses, privies, chicken houses, dairies, livestock shelters, machinery sheds, and dairies. The dwelling serves as the nucleus of the group of buildings.³⁴ Most of the historic farmsteads on Ponds Wood Road consist of a dwelling, tobacco barn, and associated fields. The lack of additional outbuildings may be due to two reasons: first, on the older farmsteads, the natural process of deterioration has caused the buildings to fall; second, on the later farmsteads, structures such as dairies and livestock shelters were never constructed because farmers confined their agricultural operation to production of tobacco and/or corn. In addition to buildings and structures, objects such as wells, tanks, hand pumps, and gasoline pumps were found on some of the Ponds Wood farmsteads during field investigations.

Setting

The Ponds Wood Road community is marked by a rolling, hilly terrain, with both gradual slopes and steep banks flanking the public road. The historic farmsteads identified in the current survey are dispersed along the length of the road, with the buildings and structures situated for the most part at the top of hills of varying elevations. On most farms, the farm property extends to the rear and down a hill behind the buildings. The fields lying along the road are interspersed with wooded areas, a reminder that lumbering was also a productive industry in the community through the mid-1960s. In some areas, 20-year-old tree stands flourish, marking sections where formerly cultivated land is returning to its appearance of more than a century ago. In spring 2007, 35 to 40 acres in the community are cultivated in corn and hay.

³³ Telephone interview with Mabel Reid Conway, 17 May 2007

³⁴ Maryland Historical Trust, *Inventory of Historic Sites in Calvert County, Charles County, and St. Mary's County*, 3

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Single-family dwellings constructed after the historic period are interspersed with the farmsteads, reflecting the division of property by the original families among descendants and newcomers. Most of the new houses sit back from the main road on wooded lots and do not interrupt the visual continuity of the rural setting.

Site plans

Without exception, the front of the farm dwellings face Ponds Wood Road. In some cases, the house sits close to the road; on other farms, it is situated at the back of a road-hugging field. Farmyards are generally located behind the dwelling, following the courtyard plan identified by Henry Glassie.³⁵ In the two exceptions, the farmyard is next to the house, reflecting the location of the tobacco barn.

The distance between dwelling and tobacco barn is not constant in farmsteads throughout the community, and reflects the size of the individual lot, the terrain, and location of associated fields. The route of the driveway accessing the dwelling and farmyard also appears to differ according to terrain, size, and shape of the lot. In some cases, the linear nature of a driveway may reflect a later iteration of the original plan. Sheds and privies are always situated behind the dwelling.

Landscape

The most prominent landscape features on most of the farmsteads are the fields, which, as mentioned, usually run back from the road to the house. With only two exceptions, the farm dwelling is sheltered by one or more trees, usually deciduous. Driveways are either unadorned or have a few cedars flanking one side. Additional landscape features in the form of flowering or evergreen shrubs are adjacent to a few of the dwellings. One farmstead has several fruit trees in the front yard.

Representative Farmsteads

The 14 farmsteads identified through field investigations span the first half of the twentieth century. The earliest of these is associated with Thomas W. Ray, who purchased 334 acres from Sallie Barber, et al, in 1904. The Ray dwelling, tobacco barn, and corn house are described in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, CT-104. Two other Ponds Wood Road farmsteads have been thoroughly documented in previous surveys: The Elmer C. Ray House, CT-379, and the Bessie Reid House, CT-253. Because these two properties are well documented, five other farmsteads were chosen to be featured in this report. The five were chosen as representative since they highlight continuity of family ownership and the variety of standing buildings and structures in the community. They are listed by the name of the historic owner(s) as it appears on the deed.

I. First-time Landowner

3010, 3140 Ponds Wood Road

Allnut and Essie Reid, 1940

108.3 acres, now 39.36 acres

(Photos 25 and 26; Fig. 10)

Elements of the Allnut and Essie Reid farmstead -- the tobacco barn and the farm dwelling -- are recorded in CT-102 of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, however, the present form will more fully document the setting and associated buildings and structures, including a corn house, stable, garage, and privy. The dwelling and the barn were on the property when it was purchased by the Reids.

The farm complex sits at the top of a hill, above a large field which stretches from the north side of Ponds Wood Road. The fields continue on the east, behind and in front of a dwelling belonging to one of the Reids' daughters, and on the north, behind the farm complex. Further to the north, there are woods belonging to the Reid property.

³⁵Lanier and Herman, *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic*, 224.

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On the east side of the house is the former driveway, covered with grass and no longer in use. Starting a third of the way from Ponds Wood Road, trees flank the driveway on the left. The driveway curves to the west at the rear of the house and continues to the farmyard.

The house faces southwest toward Ponds Wood Road. It measures approximately 18 by 32 feet and is a two-story, gable-end vernacular dwelling clad in wooden weatherboard with a roof covered in standing seam metal. The section on the east was present when Reid bought the property, and was expanded by Reid before moving in. A further description of the dwelling appears in the next section on the fourth resource type, Dwellings. About 12 feet northeast of the house is a well with hand pump. Further northeast is a corn house which is covered with vertical wood siding painted red and has a gable roof covered with corrugated metal. The only opening is a double door on the west side. At the rear of the yard, beyond a small stand of trees, are the remains of a garage and chicken or brooder house. Just northeast of the chicken house are the remains of a privy.

Approximately 70 yards from the northwest corner of the house stands a large tobacco barn, and to its east, a stable. The barn measures 60 feet, seven inches by 52 feet, according to an earlier surveyor. The barn is clad in vertical wood siding and has a standing seam metal roof. The core of the structure is a smaller barn dating from the late eighteenth to early nineteenth century. The barn is described in further detail in the Tobacco Barns section above. The gable-roofed stable is approximately 14 by 21 feet and has a 10 by 14 foot shed addition on the west. The structure is covered in vertical wood siding and has a standing-seam metal roof. When not used to house horses, tobacco was hung in the stable; some leaves are still hanging there. There are two doors on the south side of the stable, and an opening in the south side of the shed. There are two windows in the shed's west elevation.

Although the Allnut and Essie Reid property has been divided by family members, a significant portion of the fields remains continuous and uninterrupted, preserving the feeling of the original setting. While tobacco was last grown here c. 1980, about 12 acres are currently in hay. The buildings that form the farm complex are in their original location, maintaining their spatial relationships. With the exception of the tobacco barn, which is in the process of renovation, all of the structures retain their original materials. The dwelling and corn house are in fair to good condition, with walls, roof, and foundation intact and apparently sound. The stable and stripping shed are in fair condition, with sound roofs and walls but covered with vegetation.

2530 Ponds Wood Road

Leroy Greene, 1945

67 acres, now 1.52 acres

(Photos 27 and 28; Fig. 11)

In 1956, brothers Leroy and Almos Greene (AKA Green) divided the 67 acres on Ponds Wood Road they had purchased from Warren and Mildred Ray Parran in 1945. At the time of this division, the land was resurveyed and was found to actually consist of 90 acres,³⁶ and Leroy Greene and his wife, Bertina, received three lots totaling 40.14 acres. In 1992, this property was divided by the family, with Lot 3 containing the core of the farmstead.

Similar to many other farmsteads in the community, the Greene farm complex sits at the top of the hill, with fields stretching from Ponds Wood Road toward the group of buildings. The buildings are reached by a long gravel driveway. The house sits on a rise, facing south toward Ponds Wood Road. It is a 1 ½-story plus basement, frame semi-bungalow that was constructed in 1946, according to real property records. While the exterior of the 24 by 30-foot house has been altered over the past 60 years, it retains its characteristic form. Further description of the dwelling is contained in the next section on the fourth property type, Dwellings. A well sits at the rear of the house. Here, the driveway curves to the west leading to a group of noncontributing dwellings belonging to members of the Greene family.

Sitting at the top of the hill beyond the dwelling is the tobacco barn, constructed by Leroy and Almos Greene in 1955. The tobacco barn measures approximately 28 by 44 feet and has a traditional three-bay plan with main access through double doors on the north and south elevations. It is covered with vertical wood siding and has a standing-seam metal roof. The land drops off steeply behind the barn leading to more fields, although they have now been allowed to return to their natural wooded state. Sitting to the east

³⁶ Interview with George Greene Sr., 2530 Ponds Wood Road, 12 April 2007

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of the tobacco barn is the stripping shed. The building has a shed roof and the walls are covered with sheets of a composite roofing material. The shed measures 12 by 20 feet, has electricity and a kerosene heater. There is a door and a covered window on the south elevation and a covered window in the east elevation. According to George Greene Sr., the shed was only used in cold weather; otherwise, they would strip the tobacco in the barn. Again, the land drops off steeply behind the stripping shed. To the east, Greene reports, is the site of an icehouse cut into the hill by the Parrans.

The remaining structure on the property is a chicken house, also constructed in the 1950s. It sits between the tobacco barn and the dwelling, and measures approximately 8 by 10 feet. It has a tin shed roof and the walls are of vertical wood siding. It sits on concrete blocks. Entry is through a door on the south elevation.

All of the buildings on the property have been well maintained. Linda Greene, Leroy's youngest child, lives in the house. The other buildings are used for storage. While the size of the farm has been reduced, the original setting otherwise has been retained, with open fields stretching from Ponds Wood Road to the farm complex at the top of the hill. All of the buildings are in their original location, maintain their spatial relationships, and, with the exception of the dwelling, retain their original design and materials. The Greene farmstead is an important element linking the present with the past in the Ponds Wood Road community.

II. First-generation descendants

1120 Ponds Wood Road
Elmer and Lettie Ray, 1933
65 acres

(Photos 29, 30; Fig. 12)

Elmer Ray was the second son of Thomas W. Ray, who in 1903 purchased 334 acres of land from Sallie P. Barber, et al. In 1933, Thomas W. Ray and his wife, Amelia, gave 65 acres to Elmer and his wife, Lettie. According to family members, Thomas W. Ray's children and grandchildren all sharecropped at some time for him. Elmer and Lettie Ray raised 15 children on their farm.

The Ray farmstead is situated at the top of a hill, now covered with trees. According to Daniel Ray, during his father's time the land was cleared and farmed from Ponds Wood Road to Cherry Hill Farm on the north.³⁷ Access to the farm is via a gravel driveway from Ponds Wood which runs north and then forks northeast and east. The east fork of the driveway travels a short distance before spreading to form a courtyard at the rear of the Ray dwelling.

The house is a two-story, four-square dwelling, that was constructed in 1943. It replaced an earlier dwelling on the opposite side of the yard that was destroyed by fire in 1942. The house measures 50 by 50 feet and retains its characteristic block-like form, although it has been updated with horizontal white vinyl siding and replacement windows. A further description of the house appears later in section on the fourth resource type, Dwellings.

The land south of the house, toward Ponds Wood Road, is wooded, with the old lane leading uphill from the road only visible in an aerial photo. This lane may have led directly north past the house to the first of two barns on the property. An unpaved tractor path leads to the barn through a stand of trees, on land cultivated in Elmer Ray's time. This gable-roofed barn was constructed c. 1947 and has vertical wood siding and a standing-seam metal roof painted silver. It has a single-aisle, drive-through plan with an attached shed on the east and an integrated semi-subterranean stripping room in the northeast corner. The room has two windows on the north elevation. The land drops off to the north of the barn. Now wooded, this section was part of the Ray fields extending from Ponds Wood Road to Cherry Hill Farm on the north, according to Daniel Ray.

The second barn lies to the east of the first barn and northeast of the dwelling, at the back of a large open field where tobacco and corn grew during the historic period. To the east and north of the barn are additional fields, now wooded. This three-bay-plan barn measures approximately 24 by 36 feet. The construction method and materials indicate a construction date in the first half of the twentieth century. A shed runs the length of the building on the south side; however, it has largely collapsed. The eastern half of the

³⁷ Interview with Daniel Ray, 1120 Ponds Wood Road, 3 April 2007

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corrugated metal roof of the barn is missing, and the vertical wood siding is heavily patched with sheets of roofing on the north, east, and west elevations.

The dwelling and the tobacco barns are in their original locations on the intact 65-acre property. The dwelling is in good condition, but has been altered over the past 60-plus years. The tobacco barn in the woods is in fair condition, with some missing siding boards, while the barn in the field is in poor condition, with the roof and west and south walls of the shed collapsed and a large section of the barn roof missing, exposing the framing to the elements. The property is jointly owned by a number of Ray descendants; two of Elmer Ray's children live in the house. Burdened by taxes and the challenges of joint ownership, the family is considering selling most of the land but retaining the "home place," comprising five acres and the house.

2355 and 2595 Ponds Wood Road

Ridgely and Lovelett Reid

2.12 acres, 1958; 15.56 acres, 1973

[Photo 31; Fig. 13]

In 1958, Jesse and Lydia Reid gave their son, Ridgely, and his wife, Lovelett, 2.12 acres of the land they had purchased in 1930. In the early 1970s, the land was subdivided by Jesse and Lydia's heirs, and Ridgely and Lovelett received an additional 15.56 acres.

Like the other small farmsteads established by Jesse and Lydia's children, the buildings in this farm complex sit quite close to Ponds Wood Road. The dwelling sits in front of the barn, with a short gravel driveway passing the house on the east to reach the barn. East and south of the barn are the fields, where corn is being grown on 12 acres by a local farmer through a lease agreement.

The family was living on the property when they received the land in 1958. The dwelling, a small frame bungalow, was constructed in 1941 when Ridgely and Lovelett Reid moved onto the property from a farm near Parrans.³⁸ The original dwelling measured 12 by 22 feet and consisted of three rooms: a kitchen, living room, and bedroom. A further description of the house is contained in the next section on the fourth resource type, Dwellings. Trees shelter the dwelling on the north and west, and beyond the trees on the west is a small garden. A well with hand pump stands at the southwest corner of the house.

About 30 feet to the rear of the house is the tobacco barn. The gable-roofed barn was constructed in the 1950s, and is a double-aisle drive-through plan. It measures approximately 24 by 32 feet and is covered with vertical wood siding, and a standing-seam metal roof. To the northwest of the barn is an old gasoline pump.

The dwelling and the barn are well cared for and maintain their original location, materials, and setting. The barn retains its original design and materials. The fields are still cultivated, although with corn instead of tobacco. These characteristics and the fact that the property has been owned by the family for more than a half-century reinforces its association with the historic period. One of the original owners, Lovelett Reid, still resides in the dwelling she moved into in 1941.

III. Second generation

201 Ponds Wood Road

Henry Jones, 1943

2 acres

[Photos 32 and 33, Fig. 14]

Joseph John Jones Sr. gave his daughter, Olivia Jones Howe, the two acres of land that comprise this hilltop farmstead in 1937. In 1943, the land was purchased by Olivia's cousin, Howard Jones for his brother, Henry Jones, who built the house and tobacco barn, according to their nephew, Oscar Jones.³⁹ The farm complex is reached by an unpaved driveway which runs parallel to Ponds Wood Road before curving around the east side of the house. It continues west along a ridge to reach the tobacco barn.

³⁸ Telephone interview with Lovelett Reid, 6 July 2007

³⁹ Telephone interview with Oscar Jones, 31 May 2007. The date of construction may be earlier, however. Calvert County land records list a date of 1930 for construction of the primary structure on the parcel.

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Sheltered on the northwest by a large tree, the two-room house is constructed with wire nails and circular sawn lumber. The exterior is clad with two different types of wood siding: the north (front) elevation has shiplap siding; the west and south elevations, weatherboard; and the east elevation, a mix of the two. A further description of the house appears in the next section on the fourth resource type, Dwellings. On the far side of the driveway south of the house is a wood privy.

The tobacco barn stands about 200 feet from the house, at the top of a ridge on the southwest. The barn measures 20 by 24 feet and has six rooms, according to Oscar Jones who grew tobacco here for a number of years and now cares for the property for the current owner, his brother, Lambertine Jones. The gable roof is sheathed in standing seam and corrugated metal and the walls are clad with vertical wood siding. The barn is of the traditional three-bay plan with no vents. Beyond mowed areas to the south and east of the barn there are woods.

The house and barn are in good condition, retain original materials, and maintain their original spatial relationship. A split-level house constructed in 1985 on an adjacent parcel is the only visual intrusion on the original setting. Relatively unchanged for more than 60 years, the farmstead strongly evokes the second half of the historic period, when descendants were farming portions of family land.

Additional farmsteads belonging to descendants of first-time African-American landowners on Ponds Wood Road

510 Ponds Wood Road

Hattie and Oscar James, 1943

17.5 acres

Joseph John Jones Jr. and his wife, Essie, sold two tracts of land totaling 17.5 acres to Hattie James and her husband, Oscar James Jr., in 1943. It was part of the land Jones had received from his father in 1912. Hattie James was the daughter of Elmer Ray, and granddaughter of Thomas W. Ray. Oscar and Hattie James later divorced, and Hattie married Clarence Graham.

The farm complex sits on a hill overlooking Ponds Wood Road. A paved driveway runs parallel to the road and then curves north toward the buildings and fields. A split-rail fence runs along the east side of the property. The dwelling is east of the driveway below the top of the hill. Land records indicate a construction date of 1960. The dwelling is a vernacular adaptation of a cottage consisting of a single story plus basement. The walls are concrete block covered with stucco and painted a deep pink. There is a wrap-around enclosed porch which extends from the south elevation, facing Ponds Wood Road, to the middle of the west elevation. The yard south, east, and west of the dwelling is landscaped with trees and shrubs. Behind the house to the northeast is a small carport. The paved driveway stops here, widening into a parking area. From this area, a tractor path leads up the hill to the tobacco barn. The barn measures approximately 30 by 56 feet and has a single-aisle, drive-through plan. The land drops off east of the barn, and there are open fields on the east, west, and south. Behind the barn to the northwest is a noncontributing dwelling.

Although the dwelling and barn were built c. 1960, nevertheless, the James farmstead is an element that contributes to the community's strong association with the historic period.

675 Ponds Wood Road

Howard and Mary Ray, 1927

48 acres, now 8 acres

This farmstead is now owned by Mary Ray's daughter, Lillie Morsell. It consists of a brick dwelling, tobacco barn, and eight of the 48 acres given to Howard and Mary Ray by Thomas W. Ray in 1927.

The buildings sit at the top of a hill south of Ponds Wood Road and are reached by a curving unpaved driveway. The front of the two-story brick dwelling, constructed in 1948 by Nick Reid, faces Ponds Wood Road. A further description of the house appears in the next section on the fourth resource type, dwellings. The barn is southwest of the house, at the back of an open field which formerly was the location of the Ray's home garden. The barn measures approximately 20 by 36 feet and has a traditional three-bay plan. It is clad in vertical wood siding and has a corrugated metal roof. The construction material and methods suggest a construction date in the first half of the twentieth century. On the west side of the barn there is what appears to be a former tractor path that runs behind two modern houses to join Spears Road. This section of Spears Road was part of Ponds Wood Road until the 1930s. At that time, the road

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was re-routed and the new section divided the Ray property, placing their first tobacco barn (no longer standing) on the north side of Ponds Wood. At the end of the driveway on the southeast is the site of the Rays' earlier two-room dwelling. East of the present house, the land drops off sharply to an open field.

The house and barn retain their original design, materials, setting, and workmanship. Continued ownership by the family strengthens its association with the historic period.

990 Ponds Wood Road

Mildred Ray Parran, 1952

Almos and Zara Greene, 1960

2 acres, 1952

Throughout this section north of Ponds Wood Road, the original tract belonging to Thomas W. Ray has been divided among his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. The two-acre property now comprising 990 Ponds Wood Road was given to Mildred Ray Parran in 1952 by her father, Thomas W. Ray. Parran may have lived on the property, although she also owned three adjacent acres with a house constructed in 1950. In February 1960, Parran sold the property at 990 Ponds Wood Road to Almos and Zara Greene, who probably lived here after selling their land on Ponds Wood Road the month before. Interestingly, Almos and his brother Leroy had purchased that property from Parran and her late husband, Warren, in 1945.

The farm complex sits at the back of the former tobacco fields, which stretch to the house north of Ponds Wood Road. The buildings are reached by a long driveway on the east of the dwelling, which continues past the buildings into woods beyond. On the east side of the driveway opposite this farm complex is a house owned by another member of the Ray family, Josephine Ray, who is the widow of Calvert Ray.

The dwelling at 990 Ponds Wood Road was not examined closely since it was apparently constructed outside of the historic period (1960). It is a single-story in height and is clad in white horizontal siding with a gable roof. There is a well close to the house on the west. To the northwest of the dwelling is a tobacco barn. The gable-roofed barn measures approximately 24 by 28 feet and is of the single-aisle, drive-through type. The barn is covered in vertical wood siding with a standing-seam metal roof. The construction methods and materials indicate a mid-twentieth-century construction date. Lying close by to the east of the barn is a shed, which measures approximately 12 by 15 feet and is clad in vertical wood siding covered with black roofing paper. On the shed's south elevation, there are two doors with a 3/3 fixed window between. There is also a six-light fixed window on the east elevation. Behind the shed there is a line of trees and a field beyond.

Possessing a dwelling, tobacco barn, and shed which retain their original location, design, materials, and setting this compact farmstead reflects the pattern of change in the community during the historic period.

2785 Ponds Wood Road

Alice and Graham Brown, 1939

1.50 acres

The section of Ponds Wood Road between 2315 through 2985 contains property divided by Jesse and Lydia Reid. Jesse and Lydia Reid gave 1.5 acres of land to their daughter, Alice, and her husband, Graham Brown in 1939. The Brown farmstead consists of a dwelling and tobacco barn. The fields, on the east and south of the buildings, have returned to their naturally wooded state. The barn sits in a gully less than six feet from the road. The dwelling sits to the east on top of a hill. It is reached by a curving drive. The dwelling, a frame bungalow, was constructed in 1940. The gable-roofed tobacco barn, constructed with wire nails and circular sawn lumber, was constructed in the first half of the twentieth century, and has a single-aisle plan. The barn retains its original location, design, materials and workmanship. The house has been expanded, reflecting nearly 70 years of continuous ownership by the same family.

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2955 Ponds Wood Road Russell and Eva Reid, 1946 1.50 acres

Jesse and Lydia Reid gave this land to their son, Russell, and his wife, Eva, in 1946. The property is east of the parents' land, and adjacent to the fields that Russell likely farmed for them on a share arrangement. The farmstead comprises a dwelling, tobacco barn, and shed. The tobacco barn sits at the front of the property and is reached by a grassy slope leading from an asphalt parking pad in front of the house. The barn and its integrated stripping room are described more fully in the earlier section on Tobacco Barns. The house, constructed in 1950 according to land records, has been expanded and restyled by the present owner, Sidney Brooks, a grandson of Russell and Eva. Its construction has been attributed to Mervin Jones Sr., an African-American tenant farmer and carpenter who lived on the Hutchins farm bordering Ponds Wood Road. The house sits on a slope facing the road, and the land falls off sharply at the rear. East of the house is an open shed, built into the slope. According to Brooks, sometimes when the barn was full, curing tobacco was hung in this shed.⁴⁰ The former tobacco fields lie west and south of the buildings. The house has been extensively altered, but the barn and shed have not. The buildings retain their original locations and spatial relationships with the road and each other.

4470 Harvest Lane Wilford Harrison Jones, 1954 3.8 acres

The land was conveyed to Wilford Harrison Jones in two deeds in the 1950s from his parents, Joseph John Jones Jr. and Essie Jones. While the dwelling faces Ponds Wood Road, the address is Harvest Lane which may have been a lane on the 45-acre property belonging to Joseph John Jones Jr. Evidence of this is the elder Jones' dwelling which sits on the east side of the lane at the top of the hill.

The Wilford Jones farmstead consists of a dwelling, tobacco barn, and associated fields. At the top of the hill overlooking Ponds Wood Road to the north is the tobacco barn, which was constructed in the 1930s or early 1940s. It measures approximately 20 by 60 feet and has a traditional three-bay plan. The walls are covered with vertical wood siding and the east and west elevations have numerous vents which were added after initial construction. The sill rests on cast concrete piers, and there is an integrated stripping room in the southeast corner of the barn. Two noncontributing sheds lie to the east on the site of another barn, which was much taller than this one, according to Mr. Jones.⁴¹ This barn was blown down in 2003 or 2004. Its concrete piers remain. There are fields west and north of the existing barn, where Jones formerly grew tobacco.

Jones' dwelling is a single-story, vernacular bungalow, constructed in 1950 according to land records. It is clad in white horizontal siding and has a gray composition shingle roof. The brick chimney sits south of the roof ridge on the west side. The foundation is of poured rockfaced concrete. The front porch was enclosed after the house was re-sided. The area in front of the house may have also served as a field since the only landscaping is close to the house. Behind the house there are two wells, one with a hand pump, and a third noncontributing shed.

The house and tobacco barn are in their original locations. While the surrounding fields are no longer cultivated, they are mowed and maintain the rural setting. The barn retains its original design, materials, and workmanship. Although the house is altered, the changes are cosmetic and the house retains its original form. These characteristics, as well as the continued ownership by Wilford Jones, maintain the farmstead's association with the historic period.

⁴⁰ Interview with Sidney Brooks, 19 April 2007

⁴¹ Interview with Wilford Harrison Jones, 19 April 2007

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RESOURCE TYPE 4: DWELLINGS

Most of the dwellings in the Ponds Wood Road community were constructed after 1957, outside of the historic period, and therefore, are noncontributing. Twenty-five contributing dwellings were identified during field investigations, 14 of these on historic farmsteads.

While conformance to a particular style is not characteristic of vernacular dwellings, the houses that first-time African-American landowners tenants lived in on Ponds Wood Road may be broadly classified into five types: vernacular farm house, cabin, bungalow, modern cottage, and four-square. The classification of dwellings is based on their conformance to exterior characteristics of a particular type. These characteristics include general form, size, number of floors, presence or absence of porches, and building materials.⁴²

Most first-time landowners moved into dwellings that stood on the property at the time of purchase, and subsequently expanded the houses to meet their family's needs. Dwellings constructed for descendants likely reflect the prevailing designs offered by local builders during the historic period.⁴³ On Ponds Wood Road, bungalows predominate in the 1940s, followed in the 1950s by modern cottages. With few exceptions, the houses constructed during the historic period were modest in size.

Most of the dwellings have been altered in the years since their original construction date. The most obvious changes are the enclosure of porches or the addition of one or more rooms, reflecting the need for additional space. Other alterations are the result of changing aesthetics or practical concerns, for example, the installation of vinyl siding, or the addition of aluminum storm windows. With few exceptions, the dwellings are in good condition and maintained by current owners, who are either the original owners or their descendants.

The following section provides a description of representative examples of each of the historic dwelling types found on Ponds Wood Road.

I. Vernacular Farmhouse

This broad category encompasses a number of farm dwellings constructed from the mid-nineteenth through early twentieth centuries on Ponds Wood Road. Without exception, these dwellings were standing on the property when purchased by former tenant farmers. In addition to their common function, which was to house a farm family, shared characteristics of the vernacular farm house type include one-and-one-half to two stories in height, frame construction, front porch, and side gable roof.

3010 Ponds Wood Road

Allnut Reid

[Photos 34 and 35]

This farmhouse was one of the buildings on the 108 acres purchased by Allnut Reid in 1940. At the time, the house consisted of three rooms: a large room on the first floor and two bedrooms above.⁴⁴ The modest size of the house and construction materials (hand-hewn beams noted by 1976 surveyor) indicates that it may have belonged to a tenant of John W. Soper, who purchased this parcel as part of 160 acres from Eliza Dorsey in 1897. Allnut Reid enlarged the house prior to moving in his family. He added three rooms on the west, two on the first floor and one on the second. Reid also added a second entrance on the south (front) façade, and a porch. In 1942, he added a single room on the north side of the house. The walls are covered with wooden weatherboard, which, according to a 1976

⁴² The main sources of information on dwelling types included Gabrielle M. Lanier and Bernard L. Herman, 1997, *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic*; and Herbert Gottfried and Jan Jennings, *American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940*, 1985.

⁴³ A study in rural Delaware reached a similar conclusion. See John Milner Associates, Inc., *Historic Context for the DuPont Highway, U.S. Route 113, Kent and Sussex Counties, Delaware*, July 2005, Section 4.0, Associated Property Types, 93. Delaware Department of Transportation. Available on the World Wide Web, http://www.deldot.gov/static/projects/archaeology/us113/dert113context_final.pdf

⁴⁴ Telephone interview with Jesse Reid, 6 July 2007

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survey, were made for Reid from trees on the property.⁴⁵ The roof is covered with standing-seam metal. The house stands on brick piers which also support an approximately 8 by 14 foot porch sheltering the dual entry doors. The porch roof is of the same material as the house and is supported by wooden posts. There are 6/6 double-hung sash windows on the north and south elevations. There are no windows on the east elevation, and one boarded over on the west. The addition is supported on concrete blocks and has concrete steps. There is one boarded window on the east elevation of the addition, and three similarly treated on the north along with an entry door. According to the earlier surveyor, the house has internal brick chimneys at the east and west ends for woodstoves.

Although unoccupied for more than two decades, the house is in good condition, and stands in its original location, overlooking a portion of the Reid tobacco fields, and beyond the fields, Ponds Wood Road. The house possesses its original form, workmanship, and materials. Continued ownership by Reid descendants and thoughtful property division by family members have helped maintain the feeling of and association with the historic period.

Additional houses of this type on Ponds Wood Road

4610 Rolling Hill Road

Former Address: 780 Ponds Wood Road

Thomas W. Ray

Construction date: c. 1830 with later additions

The Ray House, CT-104 in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, is a one-and-one-half story, side-hall frame dwelling with a side gable roof which may have been constructed as early as 1830.⁴⁶ This date would indicate that the house may have been built during the tenure of John Somervell, who sold the property "on which he resides" to James J. Allnutt in 1867.⁴⁷ Allnutt's daughter, Sally P. Allnutt Barber, her daughter, Mary Kremer, and son-in-law, J. Clement Kremer, sold the property to Thomas W. Ray in 1903.

The house is still owned by a member of the Ray family, although it is currently unoccupied. Despite some changes to the exterior, the dwelling maintains its original location, form, and materials. As the "home place" for the Ray family, it embodies a powerful connection with the period when African-American tenants became landowners on Ponds Wood Road.

3950 Faith Lane

Jesse and Lydia Reid

Construction dates: Mid-nineteenth century with 1940 addition

This dwelling is a portion of the 125 acres of land purchased by Jesse Reid, and his wife, Lydia, in 1930. The property is listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties as the Bessie Reid House, CT-253. The inventory form describes the building in detail, noting that the house was constructed in two different periods. The one-and-one-half-story, gable roof wood-frame ell on the southwest elevation was likely constructed in the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The two-story, wood-frame cross gable portion, which faces Ponds Wood Road, was built by the Reid family in 1940. Continued ownership by the Reids has helped the dwelling maintain the general character and feeling of the historic period.

⁴⁵ CT-102, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, located in the historic preservation files, Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning, Prince Frederick, Maryland.

⁴⁶ CT-104, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville

⁴⁷ Calvert County land records, Liber TBT 3, Folio 551

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135 Ponds Wood Road

Elmer C. and Eloise Ray

Construction date: circa 1900-1910; later additions

Elmer C. Ray and his wife, Eloise, purchased this farm from the Cox family in 1944. The house is listed in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties as the Elmer C. Ray House, CT-379. According to the form, the dwelling is a two-story, cross-gable house with a two-story ell constructed circa 1900. The ell on the east appears to be the older portion of the house. The Rays enclosed the porches on the north, south, and west elevations. While the surrounding fields are no longer cultivated, the house maintains its original location, form, and design. Its setting – overlooking surrounding fields and Ponds Wood Road – as well as the existence of other buildings in the Ray farm complex maintain the dwelling's association with the historic period.

2740 Ponds Wood Road

James T. and Christianna R. Parran

Construction date: 1920

This dwelling, listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties as the Carl Parran House, CT-152, was constructed in 1920 according to Calvert County land records. It is a two-story, cross-gable frame dwelling that stands on a portion of the 200 acres purchased by James T. and Christianna Parran in 1904 from the Essex family. The house was likely constructed by the Parrans, either for themselves or for one of their children. In 1938, Christianna sold 67 acres of land together with the buildings to her son, Warren Parran, and Mildred Ray (later Parran). A stable and barn north of the house, on Holbrook Lane, are associated with the dwelling. Later, this house served as the residence for Almos Greene and his wife, Bertina. Tenant farmers, Almos and his brother, Leroy, purchased the farm from Warren and Mildred Ray Parran in 1945. The current owner has begun demolition of the house.

II. Cabin

Two of the dwellings in the community constructed by former tenant farmers during the historic period may be classified as cabins. This dwelling type is based on the hall-and-parlor house form prevalent in the Old South.⁴⁸ In the Ponds Wood Road community, these houses are rustic, one-story, two-room frame dwellings without porches.

201 Ponds Wood

Construction date: 1942 or 1930

[Photos 42 and 43]

Howard Jones purchased the two-acre parcel on which this dwelling stands from his cousin, Olivia Jones Howe, daughter of Joseph John Jones Sr., in 1943. According to his nephew, Oscar Jones, Howard's brother, Henry Jones, lived on the property and constructed the house and tobacco barn in 1942. The land records Calvert County land records give an earlier construction date of 1930. The earlier construction date would indicate that the house may have been originally constructed for a family tenant or that there was an earlier dwelling on the site.

Sheltered on the northwest by a large tree, the 12 x 24-foot house is constructed with wire nails and circular sawn lumber. The exterior is clad with two different types of wood siding: the north (front) elevation has shiplap siding; the west and south elevations, weatherboard, and the east elevation, a mix of the two. There is a standing-seam metal roof, painted silver, and an internal brick chimney near the center of the ridge. The house stands on mainly concrete block piers, with three brick piers visible on the south wall. The wooden windows, two on the north elevation, one on the south, and one on the west, are 6/6 double-hung sash. There are screens nailed over the windows. The dwelling has two wooden entry doors: the door on the north has 12 lights in the upper half, and the solid door on the south has recessed panels.

⁴⁸ Alan Gowans describes the basis for the "Southern Cabin style" as the hall-and-parlor house form in *The Comfortable House: North American Suburban Architecture, 1890-1930*, Boston: The MIT Press, 1986, 143

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The dwelling is part of the Henry Jones farmstead and comprises the house, privy, tobacco barns, and associated fields which are described earlier in this form. The Jones house retains its original design, location, materials. The house and its setting serve as an evocative reminder of the historic period.

970 Ponds Wood Road

Everard and Olivia Ray Howe

Construction date: c. 1951

Mary Ray, widow of Thomas G. Ray, and her six children were given 10 acres of land by her father-in-law, Thomas W. Ray, in 1948. In 1951, Mary's daughter, Olivia Ray Howe, and her husband, Everard Howe, built this house, according to their daughter.⁴⁹ The house is located behind 990 Ponds Wood Road, on a hill. Visible to the southwest from the dwelling's vantage point is the couple's former tobacco barn.

The two-room dwelling is of balloon frame construction with circular sawn lumber and wire nails. It has an interior chimney of machine-made brick, and brick-tex siding over horizontal wood clad walls. The gable roof is covered with composition shingles. There are three windows, one each on the south, east and west elevations, and two entry doors, one in the north elevation, and one in a small addition on the south elevation. The south and west walls of the addition are in ruins. The roof has fallen in on the south side. While the house maintains its original materials, design, and location, its dilapidated condition and overgrown setting detracts from its association with the historic period.

II. Bungalow

Twelve dwellings constructed by former tenants on Ponds Wood Road between 1930 and 1950 may be classified as vernacular adaptations of the bungalow form. Type-defining characteristics include a low, horizontal silhouette, one- to one-and-one half stories, and front and/or rear porches.⁵⁰ Some of the larger bungalows have central dormers and basements.

755 Ponds Wood Road

Tenant house, Seaward Henry Speer

Construction date: c. 1940-1941

[Photos 36, 37, 38, 39]

This dwelling was constructed by Seaward Henry Speer (AKA Speer) for his farm's tenant farmers. This is according to Mary E. Holland, who with her parents, James and Beulah Jones, and her sister, were the house's first tenants. At the time the house was constructed there was another tenant dwelling on the property, commonly described as a former slave quarters, in which the Jones family lived. The slave quarters, a tobacco barn, graveyard, and farm dwelling on the property are documented as part of "Cox's Farm," CT-213, on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties. The form alludes to other buildings on the property, but does not describe them.⁵¹

The 24-by 24-foot, front-gable dwelling sits on a hill, to the east of a driveway that leads to the farm complex on the southwest. It is one story in height, with an attic that is not a habitable space, according to the property's current owner.⁵² There is a porch on the north elevation, and a single-room, 6 by 12-foot addition on the south. The porch sits on concrete block piers. The house and addition are covered with horizontal wood siding, apparently original, painted white. The roofs of the house, porch, and addition are covered

⁴⁹ Telephone interview with Pandora Brooks, 20 June 2007

⁵⁰ This short list of characteristics reflects both the vernacular nature of building construction in Calvert County and the rural context of the Ponds Wood Road community. *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic* by Gabrielle M. Lanier and Bernard L. Herman succinctly captures the essence and variations of the vernacular bungalow.

⁵¹ Currently, the principal documentation for CT-213 is an incomplete inventory form in the historic preservation files of the Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning, Prince Frederick, Maryland.

⁵² Interview with Josef Seidel, 755 Ponds Wood Road, 12 April 2007

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with stand-seam metal, painted silver. A red brick chimney pierces the roof east on the ridge. There are exposed rafter ends on the porch and addition roofs and on the house roof along the east elevation. This design element was not found on any of the other vernacular bungalow dwellings identified in the survey.

There are two 2/2 double-hung sash windows and an entry door on the north (front) elevation. Access to the porch is by means of a flight of wooden steps on the east side. While the porch is original the railing is not, according to Mrs. Holland. There is a small 4-light casement window at the center of the gable. The east and west elevations each have two 2/2 double-hung sash windows. The south elevation has one 2/2 double-hung sash window and a 4-light casement window similar to the one on the north. The shed addition has an entry door and one 4-light casement window on the south elevation. All of the windows have flat-panel wooden shutters with a raised triple-diamond design. The windows that are not square are covered with aluminum storm windows. There are two window air-conditioning units.

Mrs. Holland states that the original house had two bedrooms, a living room, and kitchen. The present configuration is bedroom, living room, bathroom, and kitchen, according to the present owner.

The dwelling retains its characteristic form, and original location, materials, and workmanship. While no longer a tenant house but a rental property, its setting is relatively unchanged and the dwelling maintains a powerful association with the historic period.

4470 Harvest Lane

Wilford Harrison Jones

Construction date: 1950

This dwelling is on a portion of the acreage conveyed by Joseph John Jones Sr. to Joseph John Jones Jr. in 1912. To the east of this dwelling is the former dwelling of Jones Jr., who was the father of Wilford Harrison Jones. In the 1950s, Joseph John Jones Jr. and his wife, Essie, conveyed 3.8 acres of land, including this house and two tobacco barns to Wilford and his wife, Freida.

The Wilford Jones house is a side-gable, one-story frame bungalow. There is an enclosed porch on the north (front) elevation. The rear (south) portion behind the gable may also have been a porch at one time, since its foundation – poured rockfaced concrete – is the same as the house's but it has different windows. The house is clad in horizontal white vinyl siding; the roof is covered with composition shingles. There is an internal brick chimney on the south side of the ridge close to the west elevation. A wooden ramp leads from the back door to the rear yard. The front porch has a concrete block foundation and steps which have replaced earlier materials. The siding on this porch is not an exact match of the siding on the rest of the house.

The east and west elevations of the main house block each have two 2/2 vertically divided, double-hung sash windows. The enclosed porch on the north elevation has one 2/2 horizontally divided, double-hung sash window on the east and on the west sides, and two sets of paired 2/2 horizontally divided, double-hung sash windows on either side of the half-light entry door on the north. On the south elevation, which is likely an enclosed porch, there is a 2/2 horizontally divided, sash window to the left of a half-light entry door, and a set of paired 6/6 double-hung sash windows on the right. The east elevation of the enclosed south porch also has a set of paired 6/6 double-hung sash windows. All of the windows are covered with aluminum storm windows.

The Wilford Jones dwelling maintains its original location and basic form. Alterations to the house reflect more than a half-century of ownership by the same person. While tobacco is no longer cultivated nearby, the house's setting, near its fields and tobacco barn, is unchanged and contribute to its association with the historic period.

2785 Ponds Wood Road

Alice and Graham Brown

Construction date: 1940

The Browns were given the land on which this dwelling stands by Jesse and Lydia Reid in 1939. According to Calvert County land records, the couple built this house the next year. The single-story plus basement house has the characteristic low silhouette of the bungalow dwelling. The main block has a side gable; the enclosed porch on the north elevation has a front gable. There is a south-facing gable on the south elevation, which may originally have been a porch. There is a small addition on the south and a deck of pressure-treated lumber on the southwest. The house has grey horizontal vinyl siding and black shutters. The windows on the east and

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west elevation appear to be mostly original, with the same mix of 2/2 vertically divided, double-hung sash windows and smaller 6/6 double-hung sash windows as on the Jones house at 4470 Harvest. The enclosed front porch has a half-light entry door flanked by a single 1/1 double-hung sash window on the left and a picture window unit on the right. Changes to the house reflect more than 60 years of continued occupancy by the same family. Although altered, the house retains its basic form and original location near the family's tobacco barn and former fields, and contributes to the Ponds Wood Road community's association with the historic period.

2355 Ponds Wood Road

Ridgely and Lovelett Reid

Construction date: 1941

Jesse Reid had this house built for his son and daughter-in-law when they came to live and work as sharecroppers on his farm in 1941.⁵³ It displays the characteristic low silhouette of the bungalow type and has a single story. The original dwelling measured 12 by 22 feet and consisted of three rooms: a kitchen, living room, and bedroom. After Ridgely and Lovelett purchased the property from his parents in 1958, the house was expanded by Alan Dorsey, who may have been the original builder.⁵⁴ The couple added the porch on the north elevation, now enclosed with jalousie windows on the north and east, with entry through a sliding patio door. There is also a projecting gable section on the west side of the porch. The house has white horizontal siding and a concrete block foundation. There are red shutters at the 2/2 double-hung sash windows on all four elevations. The roof is covered with black composition shingles, and there are two red brick chimneys, one in the main block and the second in the south facing ell. Trees shelter the dwelling on the north and west, and beyond the trees on the west is a small garden.

Most of the alterations to the house occurred within the historic period and reflect continuous ownership by the same family for over 65 years. The house is in its original location and setting, and contributes to the property's overall association with the historic period.

3009 Ponds Wood Road

Tenant dwelling

Construction date: 1945

This house was constructed in 1945 by Mervin Jones Sr., who was an African-American farmer and carpenter. Jones constructed the house for Talmage Hutchins, for whom he tenanted. Later, Jones' son, Mervin Jones Jr., and his wife, Elizabeth, also tenant farmers, rented the house for four years before purchasing it from Hutchins.⁵⁵ The dwelling has the characteristic low, horizontal appearance of the bungalow dwelling type. The side-gable roof flares evenly on north and south, indicating that the original structure may have had front and rear porches. There is a wood deck on the south elevation. The house is covered with horizontal green vinyl siding and painted plywood covers the foundation which has poured concrete footers. The roof is covered with black composition shingles and a brick chimney pierces the roof south of the ridge. The windows are of three types: jalousie windows on the three sides of the enclosed front porch; 6/6 double-hung sash windows on the east elevation; and the remainder 2/2 double-hung sash windows. There is a small tool shed southwest of the dwelling which is of the same era.

The dwelling retains its characteristic form and original location, and alterations over the past 60-plus years have been largely cosmetic. Constructed as a tenant house by a tenant farmer and occupied by one of its original owners, the house is strongly associated with the historic period and contributes to the district.

⁵³ Telephone interview with Lovelett Reid, 6 July 2007

⁵⁴ Telephone interview with Mabel Reid Conway, 10 May 2007

⁵⁵ Telephone interview with Elizabeth M. Jones, 22 June 2007

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Bungalow #2

Dwellings in this category possess the low, horizontal silhouette and porch typical of the bungalow type, but are 1 ½ stories high and have roof dormers and basements.

3440 Bayside Road

Warren E. Gorman

Construction date: 1949

[Photos 44, 45, and 46]

This house was constructed in 1949 by Roland Brady for former Parrans tenant farmer, Warren E. Gorman and his wife, Ada, on land the Gormans had purchased from Talmage Hutchins two years earlier.⁵⁶ The side-gable dwelling is 1 ½ stories high with a basement. The foundation appears to be of concrete block with cement parging. The dwelling displays the low, horizontal silhouette characteristic of the bungalow type. There are gabled dormers centered on the east (front) and west elevations, each having paired windows. The windows in the dormers and on the first floor on all elevations are 6/1 double-hung sash windows. The west elevation also has a single six-light casement window on the west elevation. The house has white horizontal siding and a roof covered with gray composition shingles. A brick chimney pierces the roof on the west side of the ridge. There are lightning rods on the roof ridge, chimney, and dormers. Most of the windows have (nonfunctional) black louvered shutters. The porch is supported by concrete piers and has a wood railing and decorative lattice panels along the base. There is a meat house, built at the same time as the house, standing to the northeast of the dwelling. It is now used for storage.

The house, situated at the corner of Bayside Road and the eastern boundary of Ponds Wood Road, is now owned by Gorman's younger son, Archie. The house retains its original location, design, materials, and workmanship. These characteristics and its relatively unchanged setting connect the dwelling emotionally and physically with the historic period.

675 Ponds Wood Road

Howard W. Ray and Mary C. Ray

Construction date: 1948

[Photos 40 and 41]

This house is located on a portion of the 48 acres given to Howard and Mary Ray by Howard's parents, Thomas W. Ray and Amelia Ray, in 1927. It was constructed for the younger couple in 1948, replacing a two-room house that was situated to the southeast. According to Mary Ray's daughter, Lillie Morsell, the builder was Nick Reid of the Ponds Wood Road Reids.⁵⁷ The size of the house -- 1 ½ stories with an English basement -- and the choice of materials and decoration -- brick with brick ornamental trim -- may reflect the couple's relative prosperity at the time of construction.

Although placed in the semi-bungalow category, this dwelling is unique in the neighborhood. Distinctive features include running bond brick exterior with a course of three alternating horizontal and vertical stretchers at the water table; two external chimneys on the west elevation, one displaying ornamental brickwork and flanked by casements; the original front porch with battered posts, now enclosed; and original 6/6 double-hung sash windows.

4475 Harvest Lane

Construction date: 1945

This house is the former home of Joseph John Jones Jr. and his wife, Essie. It was constructed in 1945, according to the land records of Calvert County. Jones had received 45 acres of land from his father and mother in 1912. This three-bay, side-gable dwelling is 1 ½ stories plus basement and sits on top of a hill overlooking Ponds Wood Road. The dwelling displays the characteristic horizontal bungalow form, especially evident on the west elevation. There is a shed dormer with three windows centered on the north side of the

⁵⁶ Telephone interview with Genous Gorman, 1 June 2007

⁵⁷ Interview with Lillie Morsell, 675 Ponds Wood Road, 31 March 2007

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roof. A brick chimney pierces the right side of the green composite shingled roof north of the ridge. The dwelling is covered with white horizontal vinyl siding and the windows have nonfunctioning dark green paneled shutters. It appears that porches on the north and south have been enclosed, and wood decks added to both elevations. In addition to entry doors centered on the north and south elevations, there is an additional door located on the left of the south elevation. The foundation is of rockfaced concrete block.

Just south of the house on Harvest Lane is the site of a combined garage/corn house/meat house.⁵⁸ Originally, this house was part of a farmstead that included two tobacco barns and the dwelling belonging to Wilford Jones. The complex is now divided by Harvest Lane.

Alterations to the dwelling by the present owner are largely cosmetic and reversible. The house retains its original location, form, materials, and general setting, contributing to the community's continued association with the historic period..

Additional dwellings of this type on Ponds Wood Road

980 Ponds Wood Road

Josephine and Calvert Ray

Construction date: 1950

This house is similar to the one at 4470 Ponds Wood Road. It is the home of Josephine Ray, who, with her husband, Calvert, was given 12 acres of land by Calvert's father, Thomas W. Ray between 1945 and 1949. It is a 1 ½-story bungalow with a central triple dormer and enclosed front porch. There is a wooden deck on the east elevation. Set at the back of former tobacco fields and occupied by one of its original owners, the house contributes to the district's association with the historic period.

2530 Ponds Wood Road

Leroy Greene

Construction date: 1946

This dwelling sits on a rise, facing south toward Ponds Wood Road. It is a 1 ½-story, frame bungalow with concrete-block basement that was constructed in 1946, according to property records. While the exterior of the 24 by 30-foot side-gable dwelling has been altered over the past 60 years, it retains the characteristic low, horizontal form of the bungalow type. Unlike the other houses in this category, it does not appear to have had a rear porch. The front porch is divided into two sections, with a screened portion on the east and an enclosed room on the west. The porch is supported by concrete block piers. There is a central front-gable dormer and both dormer and the side-gable roof are covered with green composition shingles. The walls are covered with white horizontal aluminum siding and the 1/1 double-hung sash windows are vinyl replacements. Some of the windows have dark green, nonfunctioning louvered shutters. There are two brick chimneys: one is external, on the east elevation; the second is centered and pierces the center of the roof south of ridge. Entry to the basement is on the east elevation.

This house retains its overall form, location, and setting. In particular, its spatial relationship with other buildings comprising the Leroy Greene farmstead and with Ponds Wood Road are unchanged. As an element in the farm complex established during this historic period, the dwelling illustrates the community's unbroken connections with its past.

III. Four-square

Two dwellings constructed for former tenants farmers in the Ponds Wood Road community may be classified as four-square dwellings. These houses, both belonging to members of the Ray family, display the characteristic cubic shape and pyramidal hipped roof of the type.

⁵⁸ Interview with Wilford Harrison Jones, 4470 Harvest Lane, 19 May 2007

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780 Ponds Wood Road

Turner Ray and Nannie Ray
Construction date: 1930
[Photos 47 and 48]

Turner Ray and his wife, Nannie, were given 1 ¼ acres by his parents, Thomas W. Ray and Amelia Ray, in 1940. The couple's house likely stood on the land when it was conveyed, since Calvert County land records give a construction date of 1930. To the north and east are former fields associated with the property, and, on top of the hill to the north, is the former home of Thomas W. Ray. Like many of the farm dwellings belonging to first-generation descendants on Ponds Wood Road, it sits very close to the road.

The Turner and Nannie Ray dwelling displays several key characteristics of the four-square type, including dormers, a cube-like shape, and pyramidal roof; however, it is a single-story dwelling. It has clipped-gable dormers on the south (front), east and west elevations. A brick chimney pierces the roof at the center. The south (front) porch may be a replacement of an earlier structure. The exterior is clad in white vinyl siding and the roof has grey composite shingles.

This dwelling retains its original form, location, and setting, and contributes to the community's continuing association with the historic period.

1120 Ponds Wood Road

Elmer Ray, 1943

Although lacking the massive size of suburban examples of the type, this dwelling is a 2-story, four-square, constructed circa 1943. It replaced an earlier dwelling on the opposite side of the yard that was destroyed by fire in 1942. The house measures 50 by 50 feet and has the characteristic cubic form of the four-square, although the exterior has been updated with white horizontal vinyl siding and replacement windows. The pyramidal main roof is covered with black composition shingles. A brick chimney sits where the roof planes meet. The foundation is constructed of rockfaced concrete block, and piers of this material support the south porch, which was originally the front of the house facing Ponds Wood Road. This porch has been enclosed, and has an entry door and three double hung windows on the south, and a single double hung window on the east and west facades. Its low-pitched hipped roof is also covered with black shingles. The enclosed porch on the north appears to be a later addition. The roof shape is similar to the front, but the slope is steeper. The porch has a patio door on the east elevation, and, on the north elevation, three identical double-hung sash windows, a full-view storm door, and a small double-hung 6/1 sash window. A deck of pressure-treated lumber is attached to the east side of the porch.

While the house has been altered, it retains its original form, location, and setting and continuity of ownership that connect it with the historic period. It is also representative of the increasing prosperity of the second-generation Ray and Jones landowners on Ponds Wood Road. See, for example, the dwellings at 675 Ponds Wood Row and 4475 Harvest Lane.

IV. Modern Cottage

These dwellings, constructed in the Ponds Wood Road community between 1950 and 1960, have characteristics similar to the Cape Cod Cottage, possessing a compact form, side-gable roof, and a single story. However, their varied shapes, asymmetrical facades, lack of dormers, and modern construction materials mark them as mid-twentieth-century dwellings. These houses are economical adaptations of a traditional dwelling type built for former tenant farmers on Ponds Wood Road.

450 Ponds Wood Road

James and Beulah Jones
Construction date: 1958
[Photos 49 and 50]

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This dwelling was constructed in 1958 for former Ponds Wood Road tenant farmers James and Beulah Jones. In 1944, the couple purchased the land on which the house stands, however, they were still living in the Spears tenant house as late as 1949.⁵⁹ After the couple stopped sharecropping, James Jones worked in construction and Beulah Jones was a housekeeper to a family with three children.

The Jones' side-gable dwelling is constructed of concrete block, now painted white with blue trim. The end gable is covered with decorative vertical wood siding, painted a matching blue. The roof is covered with gray composition shingles and a brick chimney pierces the roof north of the ridge. According to Mary Holland, the Jones' daughter, the single-story house originally contained two bedrooms, a living room, and kitchen, and had a full basement.⁶⁰ There are two additions on the rear (north): on the west, there is a small concrete block ell; on the east there is a metal-sided enclosed porch/sunroom. There is a wood deck, painted white, on the east elevation. Also on the property is a tool shed, the former privy, and the manufactured home in which Mrs. Holland resides.

The Jones dwelling retains its original location, design, materials, and setting. These characteristics, along with continued family ownership, make the dwelling a contributing element in the community's association with the historic period.

510 Ponds Wood Road

Hattie and Clarence Graham

Construction date: 1960

Hattie Ray James and her husband, Oscar James Jr., purchased 17 ½ acres of land from Joseph John Jones Jr. and Essie Jones in 1943. After Hattie and Oscar divorced, Hattie married Clarence Graham. While the land records of Calvert County indicate a 1960 construction date, the house may have been built earlier or it may have replaced an older house on the property.

The house is a single-story, side-gable dwelling with a basement. It is constructed of concrete block which is now covered with stucco and painted a hot pink. The gable roof is clad with red-brown composition shingles and a brick chimney pierces the roof on the right north of the ridge. Covering the front (south) elevation and a portion of the west elevation is a large "four-season" porch. The west elevation is almost totally obscured by overgrown trees and shrubs. The main entry to the house appears to be on the north, where there is a concrete patio and a walk leading to a carport and parking area. The door and windows on the north elevation are covered with decorative black metal security bars. On the east elevation, the gable is clad with vertical wood siding painted white, similar to the neighboring house at 450 Ponds Wood Road which was built in 1958. Also on the east elevation is the basement entry door. On the ridge edge here is a lightning rod; on the opposite ridge edge there is a galloping horse weather vane. The windows on the east and west elevation have metal awnings.

The dwelling is part of a farmstead complex which includes a mid-century tobacco barn, modern carport, and former tobacco fields. The farm, which comprises more than 17 acres, is still intact, although currently for sale.

990 Ponds Wood Road

Almos and Zara Greene

Construction date: 1960

This single-story, side-gable dwelling was constructed in 1960, according to Calvert County land records. If this is the case, it was probably the dwelling of Almos and Zara Greene, who lived at 2740 Ponds Wood Road before purchasing this property from Mildred Ray Parran. The dwelling is clad with white horizontal siding. The roof is covered with black composition shingles and a brick chimney pierces the roof north of the ridge. There is a shed-roof porch on the south (front) elevation, over the entry door. The house is part of a farmstead that includes a tobacco barn, shed, and associated tobacco fields. The dwelling retains its original location and setting, and is a contributing element in the historic landscape.

⁵⁹ Telephone interview with Mary E. Holland, 29 May 2007

⁶⁰ Interview with Mary E. Holland, 450 Ponds Wood Road, 31 March 2007

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1030 Ponds Wood Road

Mildred Ray Parran

Construction date: 1950

According to the land records of Calvert County land, this house was constructed in 1950. At that time, the property was owned by Mildred Ray Parran, who had been given three acres by her parents, Thomas W. Ray and Amelia Ray, in 1937. This house was only examined from the street since the current owner could not be contacted. Like other farm dwellings constructed by first-generation landowners during the period, it is a compact single-story, side-gable dwelling. The three-bay façade is similar to the Jones dwelling at 450 Ponds Wood Road. It faces Ponds Wood Road from atop a hill to the north, with fields running from the road to the front of the house.

150 MacArthur Drive

Genious Jones

Construction date: 1950

This dwelling was constructed by Genious Jones and his wife, Mary, after they purchased 50 acres of the former Joseph J. Jones Sr. land from Richard Parran Harvey. Due to time constraints, the house was only examined from the street. The white, clapboard-like siding of the side-gable dwelling as well as the steeper pitch of the roof make this house more similar to the traditional Cape Cod Cottage than other vernacular adaptations of the type in the Ponds Wood Road community. The 4/4 double-hung sash windows on the south (front) elevation have green shutters. The roof is covered with composition shingles and a brick chimney pierces the center of the roof south of the ridge. There is a single-story addition on the west and a carport on the east of the house. The tobacco barn built by Genious Jones in 1947 sits to the southeast, separated from the house by a stand of trees. The dwelling and 14 acres of land are now owned by two of Jones' daughters; the barn is on property owned by a grandson.

Resource Type V. Agricultural Outbuildings

(Photos 51, 52, and 53)

In addition to the tobacco barns and agricultural outbuildings on historic farmsteads that have been described in previous sections, there were four additional agricultural outbuildings associated with farm tenancy during the historic period identified during spring 2007 field investigations. These structures stand on the former Spears property at 775 Ponds Wood Road. Three of the structures – a tractor shed, chicken house, and corn house – are located in the former farmyard; a cattle barn stands in the fields to the southwest. The property is listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, CT-213, however, these structures are not documented on the form.

The meat house (Photo 52) and chicken house (Photo 51, right) were likely constructed c. 1900-1930. The side-gable chicken house is clad with board and batten wood siding painted red. The sill rests on concrete piers, and the roof is of standing-seam metal. The structure has three walls; the fourth "wall" on the north is provided by the tractor shed/garage which the chicken house adjoins. This indicates the chicken house may have been moved to its present location after construction of the tractor shed. The interior of the chicken house consists of two rooms, with the room on the north approximately double the size of the room on the south. On the west (front) façade, there are two fixed light windows and a door in the north section, and a door in the south section.

The front-gable meat house, southwest of the chicken house, is clad in vertical wood siding, painted red. The roof is of standing-seam metal, and the sill rests on large sandstone rocks. The interior plan is a single room.

Located north of the chicken house is a tractor shed [Photo 51, left] which appears to have been constructed in the first half of the twentieth century. The three-bay shed is open on the west. It is clad with vertical wood siding and its shed roof is covered with sheets of standing-seam metal. The sill rests on concrete block piers. There is a gasoline pump just inside the first bay on the left. The tractor shed is used for storage by the present owner. To the north of the tractor shed is a small shed constructed of concrete block which is a noncontributing structure. Down the hill to the southwest is another noncontributing building, a large equipment shed constructed in the 1970s according to the present owner.

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Like the tractor shed, the cattle barn [Photo 53] also appears to have been constructed in the first half of the twentieth century, with a later shed addition on the east. This addition also dates from the 1970s according to the current owner.⁶¹ The gable-roof barn is oriented on a northeast-southwest axis with an overall measurement of approximately 52 x 60 feet. The barn is clad in vertical wood siding which has peeling red paint. It has a roof covered with standing seam metal.

The original (western) section of the barn is built into the slope. This section is divided into two areas with the larger area open on the west for access by cattle. There are five bays in the cattle area; the far left bay is enclosed with board and batten siding. The floor is partially paved with concrete. East of this section is the portion of the original barn used for large farm equipment, which is accessed through large double doors parallel to the gable. A low cinder block wall divides the original barn with the 1970s addition. The barn is currently used for storage.

These structures form a cohesive unit which demonstrates the persistence of tenant farming as a way of life on Ponds Wood Road into the twentieth century. At least one of the tenants who worked on the Spears farm, James and Beulah Jones, went on to purchase land on Ponds Wood Road in the 1940s. The structures on the Spears property retain their original location, materials, and workmanship; however, the structures are threatened by development plans for the site.

Resource Type 6: SITES

There are three sites in the Ponds Wood Road community associated with tenant farming and the transition to land ownership by African Americans in the historic period. On the sites of the Joseph J. Jones Sr. dwelling (150 Turnabout Lane) and the Parran dwelling (2980 Ponds Wood Road), post-1960 dwellings have been constructed. On the site of the Lyons Store (1820), a 1990 renovation encompassed the basement, back wall, and one portion of the floor of the original structure in a new commercial building.⁶²

⁶¹ Interview with Josef Seidel, 755 Ponds Wood Road, 12 April 2007

⁶² Telephone interview with Linda Stallings, 17 July 2007

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

For nearly 200 years, farm ownership in Calvert County was the domain of white planters and farmers who depended upon an enslaved black work force to cultivate their crops, primarily tobacco. In the aftermath of the Civil War, former freedmen and newly emancipated slaves in the rural county had greater economic opportunity, and many progressed from farm laborers to tenancy for white landowners. By the turn of the century, some African-American tenants were able to purchase sizeable parcels of land on Ponds Wood Road. This evolution continued as the twentieth century progressed, as the first African-American landowners divided their property among descendants and as subsequent generations of African-American tenant farmers became able to purchase land.

Ponds Wood Road is an example of a rural community where African Americans advanced from tenancy to land ownership between 1889 and 1958. The district contains a significant concentration of buildings, structures, and vistas associated with these farmers and representative of the era when this transition was taking place, helping to reshape Calvert County society. For this reason, the Ponds Wood Road community may satisfy the requirements for significance under Criterion A.

Narrative

Introduction

With an area of 217 square miles, Calvert County is the smallest county in the state of Maryland. Flanked on three sides by water and connected to urban centers mainly by steamboat for a large part of its history, the county's economy depended on agriculture for more than 300 years.⁶³ The primary cash crop for generations of Calvert County farmers was tobacco. In the final decades of the twentieth century, a number of factors conspired to put an end to local tobacco farming, including a shortage of labor, a decline in tobacco prices, and higher land values reflecting increased residential development.⁶⁴

The rapid decline in tobacco production – accelerated by the state's buyout of tobacco farmers at the close of the twentieth century – threatened the persistence of traditions associated with tobacco farming. Seeking to preserve its shared heritage, the county initiated a multi-phase project in 1990 to document Calvert County's "tobacco culture."⁶⁵

⁶³ Main sources of information on the history of Calvert County include *A History of Calvert County, Maryland*, by Charles Francis Stein (1977), and *The Calvert Independent*, Tercentenary Edition, September 23, 1954. Sources for the history of tobacco farming in Calvert County and the Chesapeake region include Anne Sundermann (2005), *The Money Crop: Calvert County After the Tobacco Buyout*; Allan Kulikoff (1986) *Tobacco and Slaves: The Development of Southern Cultures in the Chesapeake, 1680-1800*; and Christopher Martin (1991, 1992), *The Calvert County Tobacco Culture Survey: Phases II and III*

⁶⁴ *The Money Crop*, 47

⁶⁵ The initial phase of the "Calvert County Tobacco Culture Survey" identified and documented more than 150 local tobacco barns. The second and third phases of the survey consisted of photographing and collecting oral histories of tobacco farmers in order to record the tobacco production process and associated folkways. The bibliography lists publications associated with this project.

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Suburbanization of this traditionally rural county has intensified during the past decade. In 2006, the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners launched a new effort to identify the community's historic and cultural resources and encourage their protection. The current project seeks to describe and to preserve the memories, sites, landscapes, and structures related to tenant farming and sharecropping from the end of the Civil War through the mid-twentieth century.⁶⁶ The project focuses on a single neighborhood – Ponds Wood Road, Huntingtown– which is representative of many rural areas of Calvert County. Here, both the traditions of tobacco farming and a new chapter in social history are written on the landscape.

Tobacco Society

Native Americans were cultivating tobacco in the Chesapeake region when the first English settlers arrived in the early seventeenth century. By the 1620s, tobacco had become the colonists' primary export, with indentured servants from England supplying the first labor force. After these servants fulfilled the terms of their indenture, they typically worked for plantation owners as freedmen until they had saved enough money to purchase land and raise tobacco. By the close of the seventeenth century, improving economic conditions in England and a depressed tobacco market reduced the number of indentured servants coming to the region. A new low-cost labor force was needed. By the third quarter of the seventeenth century, planters in the Chesapeake colonies began to embrace the ongoing slave trade to meet their labor needs.⁶⁷

The reliance on an enslaved workforce to support the region's economy continued until the Civil War and executive proclamation brought it to an end. The impact of this change is illustrated in historic population statistics. [Table 1. Calvert County Population, 1860-1950] In 1860, Calvert County had 3,997 white residents and 6,450 black residents; the black population comprising 4,609 slaves and 1,841 freedmen. By 1870, the black population of the county had declined by nearly 1,000. Deprived of nearly all their labor force by emancipation and by the increased mobility of blacks after the war, many owners of large plantations either heavily mortgaged their property or let sections lie fallow.⁶⁸ The situation dealt a crushing blow to the local economy, one which it didn't recover from until the beginning of the twentieth century, according to Stein's *History of Calvert County*.⁶⁹ Nevertheless, the situation created significant opportunities for former slaves and black and white farm laborers to become share or cash tenants on white-owned land.

Tenant Farming

There is a long tradition of tenant farming in the United States. As the Department of Agriculture noted in 1916, "[t]enantry is one of the normal steps by which young men with limited capital become farm owners. In general, every farm will change ownership at least once each generation..."⁷⁰

Tenant farmers cultivate land owned by another in exchange for either cash rental, share of products, or some combination of rental and share. Share tenants return a portion of their crops' sale price to the landowner for the use of the land. While individual arrangements vary, in most cases the owner receives half the proceeds from the sale of the tenant's crop.

While the terms "tenant" and "sharecropper" are often used interchangeably, an article in the 1916 Department of Agriculture yearbook distinguished between them:

[M]any of the colored farm laborers of the South receive part of the crop in lieu of wages. Such laborers are known locally as 'croppers.' They furnish no working capital, but are classified as tenants in the census data. The change from cropper to share tenant is similar to a change from hired laborer to tenant in other parts of the country."⁷¹

⁶⁶ The 2006 Ponds Wood Road project includes the identification and documentation of historical and cultural resources in the community and the collection of oral histories.

⁶⁷ *Tobacco and Slaves*, 40

⁶⁸ *The Calvert Independent*, 23 September 1954, 21

⁶⁹ *History of Calvert County*, 188

⁷⁰ W. J. Stillman and E. A. Goldenweiser, "Farm Tenantry in the United States," 1916 Yearbook of the United States Department of Agriculture, 1917, 321

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A report in the 1930 census of agriculture narrows this definition, describing croppers as "share tenants, to whom landlords furnish all the work animals," and distinguishing them from share tenants who give either a share of the product for the use of the land or a share for part and cash for part.⁷² From this fine distinction between sharecropper and share tenant, it is easy to understand why the terms tenant and sharecropper came to be used interchangeably. To critics of the sharecropper system, however, the latter arrangement served to perpetuate the economic dependency African Americans had experienced in the plantation economy, since sharecroppers only received half of their crop's sales price and, as a result, were unable to accumulate sufficient capital to improve their economic status.

Historic census data and interviews with descendants indicate that the African Americans who purchased land on Ponds Wood Road were share tenants either at the time of or prior to becoming landowners. Some of them were likely "croppers," especially if they were tenants for parents or grandparents before acquiring property. However, because they could pay cash or had sufficient assets to secure loans for their land purchases, most of the first-time landowners are more accurately characterized as share tenants.

The financial status of tenants should not be overstated, however. Their livelihood primarily depended on the availability of land for lease. For share tenants, the only way to achieve a greater degree of economic independence was to purchase their own land. While leaving agriculture was an option, the choice of occupations was limited for African-American tenants who had little formal education, either because they had had to leave school at an early age to work on the farm or because access to public education was denied them because of their race.⁷³

The precarious economic position of share tenants was aptly described by a member of a twentieth-century tenant family in Calvert County:

...when you look at [the sharecropping] arrangement, well you didn't have any money starting out and didn't have a place to go [so] it was a way at least to get started. But it was also a system that kept you there. Unless you got out and worked construction ... you were doomed to stay in that sharecropping process, because...most people dropped out of school to work on the farm and they only had enough education to work in their culture or farming environment...So I would say it was a system put together to keep you in the system until you actually figured out yourself how to make it better and get out of it...Buy some land and then you were actually able to raise your own tobacco and ...you got the whole amount then you could see the money coming in. But without land ... without land ownership you've got to depend on someone else to provide those resources for you."⁷⁴

As this statement indicates, the process of moving from tenancy to land ownership served as a critical step toward economic independence for African Americans on Ponds Wood Road. This step, combined with their hard work, helped to create an environment for future social and economic advancement.

⁷¹ Ibid., 328. The article does not name the states that comprise "the South," although it is reasonable to assume that Maryland is included. The study only includes data from 1880 on since tenancy was not captured earlier.

⁷² Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930. Agriculture, Volume III; Type of Farm, Part II: The Southern States, Section 1, 1. Available on the World Wide Web: <http://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/decennial/1930.htm>

⁷³ The struggle to obtain educational equality for African Americans in the county is recorded in Richlyn F. Goddard's *Persistence, Perseverance, and Progress: History of African American Schools in Calvert County, Maryland, 1865-1965*, MD: Maryland Humanities Council, 1995

⁷⁴ From an interview with Warren Parran, conducted by William Poe, 6 September 2006. Transcript located in the historic preservation files, Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning

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Ponds Wood Road

The farms, buildings, and structures belonging to first-time African American landowners in the community are linked by Ponds Wood Road, a prominent feature in the landscape since the mid- nineteenth century.⁷⁵ The earliest reference to "Ponds' Woods" was discovered in a 1903 mortgage.⁷⁶ A road following the winding path of present-day Ponds Wood Road appears on an 1892 topographic map of the area, with the east and west boundaries where they are today, i.e., on the west, with the road leading to Sunderland and Huntingtown, and on the east, with the road leading to Willows.⁷⁷ Four roads branch off Ponds Wood on the 1892 map. Three of these roads run south and are in the approximate locations of farms belonging to white landowners Edward Reynolds, the Williams family, and the Essex family. In the twentieth century, much of these lands would pass into African-American ownership. The fourth road runs north, initially parallel to the major north-south road and then merging with another east-west road leading to Sunderland. Later, this thoroughfare would be named after early twentieth century white landowner Guy Hardesty.⁷⁸

The 1902 topographic map⁷⁹ shows an additional road, unimproved, branching off Ponds Wood Road. This road runs north and then west to merge with the north-south road leading to Huntingtown and Sunderland. This road is in the approximate location of Cherry Hill Farm, owned by the white Barber family, which is adjacent to land the family sold to African-American Thomas W. Ray in 1903. The 1902 map indicates no more than 16 dwellings or farms along the entire length of Ponds Wood Road. Both the 1892 and 1902 topographic maps show the location of the proposed Baltimore and Drum Point Railroad, which was never completed. By 1905, the map shows were only two additional dwellings or farms in the area, bringing the total to 18.⁸⁰

The 1938 topographic map (surveyed in 1934, 1935) shows the same number of buildings along Ponds Wood Road.⁸¹ The highway map shows 10 "farm units" and five "dwellings other than a farm" in the area. It also reveals that, in addition to agriculture, other businesses were in operation along the road at this time: There was a saw mill on present-day Hardesty Road near its the intersection with Ponds Wood Road and a store on Ponds Wood approximately .2 mile to the east.⁸²

After World War I, a program of road improvements was initiated to accommodate the growing number of automobiles in the county. The major roads linking Calvert County with Washington, D.C., and other urban areas were given first priority while more rural routes like Ponds Wood Road were attended to later. By the early twentieth century, Ponds Wood Road had become a popular route to county beaches on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay. While the route was direct, it was not without its hazards. One resident remembers his father keeping a team of oxen ready during the summer months to free the automobiles of beachgoers stuck in the mud in front of their property.⁸³

⁷⁵ An east-west road in approximately the same location appears on the 1865 Martenet Atlas of Maryland

⁷⁶ The 1903 mortgage between Sallie P. Allnutt Barber, Mary W.K. Kremer and J. Clement Kremer and the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Calvert County refers to the 503-acre parcel sold by John Somervell to James J. Allnutt in 1867 "as is known as and called 'Ponds' Woods'." (Calvert County land records: Liber GWD 3, Folio 420)

⁷⁷ Prince Frederick, Maryland Quadrangle, Northeast, 1892 (Surveyed 1890). United States Geological Survey, 15-minute series. Available on the World Wide Web: <http://www.historical.maptech.com>

⁷⁸ ADC Street Map of Calvert County, Maryland, 2003, Alexandria, Virginia: Alexandria Drafting Company. In 1906, Hardesty received 150 acres of land in a division of family property (Land records of Calvert County, Liber GWD 7, Folio 110).

⁷⁹ "Map of Calvert County Showing Topography and Election Districts," Maryland Geological Survey, 1902 (Topography 1890, Culture Revised 1900). Located in Special Collections, University of Maryland Hornbake Library

⁸⁰ Topographic Map of the Prince Frederick, Maryland Quad, U.S. Geological Survey, 1910. Surveyed 1890, Revised 1903, 1904-05. Available on the World Wide Web: <http://www.historical.maptech.com/getImage.cfm?fname=prfr10ne.jpg&state=MD>

⁸¹ Topographic Map of Prince Frederick, Maryland Quadrangle, U. S. Geological Survey, 1938. Surveyed 1934, 1935. Available on the World Wide Web: <http://www.historical.maptech.com/getImage.cfm?fname=prfr38ne.jpg&state=MD>

⁸² General Highway Map, Calvert County Maryland, 1937, Maryland State Roads Commission. Located in Special Collections, University of Maryland Hornbake Library

⁸³ Interview with Eugene Ray, 1120 Ponds Wood Road, 19 April 2007

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By 1934, the Maryland State Roads Commission was purchasing land from Ponds Wood Road property owners "...to construct and layout a road and/or bridge...required for public convenience, necessity, and safety ..."⁸⁴ Structural improvements included straightening curves in the westernmost section, bypassing an s-shaped portion of the original road; these former road segments are discernable on the landscape and recorded in current quadrangle maps. The pace of improvements on Ponds Wood Road, however, reflected the persistent rural nature of the community. Despite its status as a state road, Maryland Route 575, a topographic map shows only the western third of Ponds Wood Road from Maryland Route 2 surfaced with "bituminous material" by 1953.⁸⁵ The entire length of Ponds Wood Road was surfaced by the end of 1959.⁸⁶ The 1953 topographic map shows 63 buildings along the road; as many as 23 of these may be tobacco barns.⁸⁷

As this review of Calvert County maps reveals, Ponds Wood Road was a sparsely settled area through the entire historic period. This was likely due to the fact that agriculture was the primary occupation of most Ponds Wood residents, with large farms occupying much of the acreage along the road according to land records. The maps also show that Ponds Wood Road was unimproved until the 1930s, and was not fully surfaced until after 1953, highlighting the road's primary usage by local farm families.

As Ponds Wood Road shaped the development of the rural community with its rolling hills, abundant woods, and low-lying areas, so did the first-time African-American landowners leave their marks on the landscape, creating the buildings, structures, and the vistas that characterize the district even today.

Tenancy to Ownership

Before the Civil War, African Americans owned and rented farm land in the Huntingtown area, which included Ponds Wood Road. Among the "Free Inhabitants" of Huntingtown recorded in the 1860 census was Rachel Quill, a 65-year-old black farmer who had real estate valued at \$2,140 and a personal estate valued at \$1,650.⁸⁸ As a landowner, she appears to be the exception, however. Of the five other African American farmers listed in Huntingtown, none possess real estate of value, which indicates their likely status as share tenants.⁸⁹ Most of the free African Americans working in the Huntingtown area in 1860 were employed as laborers. It is worth noting that the white farmers and planters the census taker visited before and after visiting Rachel Quill -- John Somervell, James Allnutt, and William Harrison -- possessed real estate valued at \$15,000, \$16,000, and \$20,200, and personal estates valued at \$30,020, \$35,000, and \$35,248, respectively.

By the time of the 1870 census, more African Americans had advanced to tenant status in the area. In 1870, future Ponds Wood Road landowner Edward Quill (who may or may not have been related to Rachel Quill) was among the African-American farmers recorded in the Third District.⁹⁰ Since there was no value entered for real and personal estates, Edward Quill presumably farmed as a sharecropper. Nearby families included those headed by African-American farmers Benjamin Quill (son of Rachel) and James Chase, both without recorded real and personal estates. Benjamin Quill resided at the dwelling visited before that of Mary Somervell, presumably the widow of John Somervell, and after the dwelling of Edward Quill. The reduction in the value of real estate owned by

⁸⁴ Deed from Howard and Mary Ray to Maryland State Roads Commission, Land records of Calvert County, Liber AAH 32, Folio 129

⁸⁵ "Map of Calvert County Showing the Topography and Election Districts," State of Maryland Department of Geology, Mines, and Water Resources, 1949, Rev. 1953. Located in Special Collections, University of Maryland Hornbake Library

⁸⁶ General Highway Map, Calvert County, Maryland, Maryland State Roads Commission, 1959. Located in Special Collections, University of Maryland Hornbake Library

⁸⁷ North Beach and Prince Frederick Maryland Quad Maps, United States Department of the Interior Geological Survey, 1953 (North Beach, Photo revised 1979; Prince Frederick, Rev. 1993)

⁸⁸ 1860 census population schedule: Series M653, Roll 470, 94.

⁸⁹ In 1860, African Americans John A. Cox and Ben Jones were presumably share tenants, with personal estates valued at \$5,000 and \$250, respectively. 1860 Population Schedule: Series M 653, Roll 470, Page 85.

⁹⁰ 1870 census population schedule: Series M593, Roll 581, 107.

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the Somervell family, from \$15,000 in 1860 to \$6,000 in 1870, may reflect decreased land values in the area and/or sale of family-owned property following the Civil War.⁹¹

Transition in farm ownership on Ponds Wood Road: 1889-1910

The 1880 census of agriculture was the first to collect data on tenancy. According to the schedule, there were 332 tenant farmers in Calvert County. [See Table 2. Farm Ownership and Tobacco Production] By 1890, that number had decreased to 118, while the number of farms had increased from 882 to 1,001. One possible explanation of this reversal is that a large number of 1880 tenants had become farm owners by 1890. According to the Department of Agriculture 1916 Yearbook, tenant farmers usually comprise a lower percentage of farm operators when there is public land available (as was the case until about 1890), when farms are very small, or when land productivity is low.⁹² As shown in Table 2, both the acres in tobacco and the pounds harvested were significantly lower in 1890 compared with 1880. This can account for the lower average value of farm land and buildings per acre in 1890 than in 1880 -- \$13.88 compared with \$16.44 -- and could contribute to the lower percentage of tenancy.

Between 1890 and 1900, the average value of farm land and buildings per acre in Calvert County increased by about 15 percent, to \$16.14. While there was an increase in the number of farms, triple the amount of acres in tobacco production, and a proportionate increase in pounds of tobacco harvested, the rate of production per acre declined slightly. However, the slightly lower productivity cannot account for the tremendous increase in tenancy, from 118 to 446. Significant population growth during this period, from 9,860 to 10,223, may partially explain the increase.

By 1910, the average value of farm land and buildings per acre had increased, but by just over a dollar, to \$17.17. Ownership by both whites and African Americans had risen in the previous decade, and tenancy had decreased.⁹³ The small increase in total number of farms between 1900 and 1910 (1,077 to 1,080) and large reduction in tenancy may have been caused by a number of factors, including individuals leaving the region for jobs in urban areas. In the first decade of the twentieth century, the county's population had grown to 10,335; however, there were 103 fewer black residents and an increase of 199 white residents. Identifying specific reasons for changes in demographics will require additional research.

The increase in farm ownership by African Americans in Calvert County between 1900 and 1910 can likely be attributed to a number of factors. By the turn of the century, African Americans had been working for wages or self-employed as tenant farmers for more than a generation. This likely put them in a better financial position to become first-time landowners. In addition, it appears that there was a "changing of the guard" taking place among incumbent land owners. The land transfers in the Ponds Wood Road community during this period appear to be largely the divestiture of property by descendants of older white families. [See Table 3. Pattern of Property Transfer] While some heirs were still engaged in farming in Calvert County, many others were pursuing non-farming occupations and had moved away from the area. This situation created a significant opportunity for African-American tenant farmers who had either saved enough cash or who could secure a loan or mortgage to purchase their own land.

The transition from mostly white to significant black ownership on Ponds Wood Road apparently began late in the nineteenth century. [Fig. S-1] In 1889, Edward Quill purchased four acres near the intersection of Ponds Wood Road and present day Maryland Route 4/2 from white landowners Virgil and Eliza Cox. In 1903, Thomas W. Ray purchased 334 acres flanking both sides of Ponds Wood Road from the Barber family, also white property owners.⁹⁴ According to family lore, Ray had been raised on the Barber's

⁹¹ In 1867, John Somervell sold 370 acres to James J. Allnutt for \$6,000 (Land records of Calvert County, Liber TBT 3, Folio 551). A portion of this land was sold to Thomas W. Ray in 1903.

⁹² "Farm Tenantry in the United States," 333-334

⁹³ African-American farm ownership in the county increased by more than 24 percent and the number of African-American tenants decreased by about 15 percent. White ownership increased by 15 percent and white tenancy decreased by 23 percent.

⁹⁴ Ray obtained a mortgage in the amount of \$600, half the purchase price, from the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Calvert County (Land records of Calvert County, Liber GWD 3, Folio 417)

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Ponds Wood Road farm and returned to purchase the property after tenancing in Anne Arundel County.⁹⁵ In 1904, African-American landowners James T. and Christianna R. Parran purchased 200 acres on the north side of the road from Joseph S. Essex, adding to the 217 acres Mrs. Parran had purchased in the late nineteenth century.⁹⁶ In 1905, African-American tenant farmer Joseph John Jones Sr. purchased 250 acres of land from white farmer Robert W. Norfolk. Norfolk, who had purchased the land from the estate of Mary E. Cox, held Jones' \$1,200 mortgage.⁹⁷ In 1909, the first intra-family transfer of property by African-American landowners took place, when Joseph John Jones Sr. sold land to George Jones, who appears to have been his older brother.⁹⁸

A number of buildings, structures, and sites associated with first-time African-American buyers in the first wave of transfers can be found in the Ponds Wood Road community. Thomas W. Ray's dwelling and tobacco barn, constructed in the nineteenth century by previous owners, still occupy a commanding view of the district. A house, tobacco barn, and stable constructed in the first decades of the twentieth century remain on land owned by James T. and Christianna R. Parran. While no buildings associated with Joseph John Jones Sr. appear to have survived, the site of Jones' dwelling has been identified on Turnabout Lane.

Transition in Farm Ownership, Ponds Wood Road: 1910 – 1919

The 1920 census reveals that farm ownership among African Americans in Calvert County decreased slightly in the second decade of the twentieth century (-3), while the rise in white farm ownership outpaced the 1900-1909 increase (+73). Tenancy decreased among both groups. During the period 1910-1919, the average value of farm land and buildings per acre had doubled from \$17.17 to \$36.02. Perhaps reflecting the higher valuation, there were no land purchases by tenants from outside the Ponds Wood Road community in these two decades, and only one intra-family transfer, from Joseph John Jones Sr. to Joseph John Jones Jr.⁹⁹ Higher land prices may also have contributed to the sharp decrease in overall county population as did the likely draw of employment in urban areas during the period before and after World War I. There were 251 fewer African Americans and 324 fewer whites living in Calvert County in 1920 than in 1910.

Standing in testimony to the sole intra-family transfer in the community during this period is a dwelling and tobacco barn on Harvest Lane which belonged to Joseph John Jones Jr.

Transition in Ponds Wood Road Farm Ownership: 1920-1939

Farm ownership by whites and African Americans had dropped considerably by the next decennial census in 1930, down 28 percent overall, with an increase of 39 percent in tenancy among both groups. While the Depression may have had an adverse effect on farm ownership, the average value per acre at the close of the decade was only 15 percent higher than in 1920.¹⁰⁰ In 1930, Neeld Estate

⁹⁵ Interview with Darryl Ray, 4740 Oxcart Road, 10 May 2007. The Barber property included land purchased in 1867 by James Allnutt and later inherited by his son, Howe Barber, and daughter, Sallie P. Allnutt Barber.

⁹⁶ According to the land records of Calvert County, Mrs. Parran purchased 17 acres in 1888 from the Dorsey family (Liber JS 1, Folio 341), and 200 acres in 1897 from Alexandra and Ann Fowler (Liber TBT 4, Folio 537). While the location of the 17-acre property has not yet been determined, the property the Parrans acquired from the Fowlers is north and northeast of the 200 acres the couple purchased in 1904 on Ponds Wood Road.

⁹⁷ Mortgage terms included an initial payment of \$300 plus an unspecified amount of interest in six months with subsequent payments annually for the next eight years. Jones paid off the debt in a little over five years (Land records of Calvert County, Liber GWD 5, Folio 385).

⁹⁸ 1870 population schedule. Series M593, Roll 581, Page 72.

⁹⁹ The transfer of land to children and grandchildren who had tenanted family land is common. An article in the 1928 Yearbook of Agriculture notes, "Nearly half of the tenant farmers in the United States get their first experience in farming for themselves on land leased from relatives." (Howard A. Turner, "Tenant Farming on a Share Basis Usually Best for Beginners," 1928 Yearbook of Agriculture, 574. Available on the World Wide Web: <http://naldr.nal.usda.gov>)

¹⁰⁰ While the value of land alone had not increased appreciably, the value of land plus buildings had, by nearly 40 percent. See Table 2.

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tenant farmer Jesse Reid purchased 125 acres on Ponds Wood Road for \$2,500 from the Soper family. At \$25/acre, the purchase price was slightly below the average market value of \$26.72, and also included buildings. [Fig. S-2]

The 1940 census shows the rate of attrition in Calvert County among black farm owners slowed in the 1930s, with ownership by white farmers on the rise. On Ponds Wood Road, a net increase in ownership by African-Americans characterize this decade: In the 1930s, the first African-American families – Jones, Ray, and Parran – were distributing property among their children, many of whom had farmed portions of the family land in a sharecropping arrangement with their parents.¹⁰¹ Resources in the Ponds Wood Road community from this period include the Jesse Reid farmstead, CT-263 (Bessie Reid House) on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties. The property is located at a central point in the Ponds Wood Road community and comprises three tobacco barns, a dwelling, and a number of outbuildings. In addition, the site of a grain mill operated by Warren Parran, son of James T. and Christianna R. Parran, is located across Ponds Wood Road from the Reid property.

Transition in Ponds Wood Road Farm Ownership: 1940-1957

The 1950 census reveals a slight increase in African-American land ownership in Calvert County, from 142 to 146, and an increase in African-American tenancy, from 304 to 338. This data does not reflect the land transfers on Ponds Wood Road during the period 1940-1949. [Fig. S-3] In addition to interfamily transfers, moving from tenancy to farm ownership were Allnut and Essie Reid, Elmer C. and Eloise Ray, Warren Gorman, Richard Parran Harvey, Genius Jones, and brothers Leroy Greene and Almos Greene. Reid, Ray, and Gorman purchased from longtime white property owners, while Harvey and the Greenes obtained land from families of two of the first African Americans to purchase in the community. In 1948, Harvey sold a portion of his land to Jones. The low purchase price for at least two of the properties – \$1,200 for 108 acres to Allnut Reid (1940) and \$2,500 for 135 acres to Richard Parran Harvey (1942) – may reflect more the eagerness of heirs to divide inherited real estate than the quality of the land. The average value of Calvert County farm land and buildings per acre in 1945 was \$67.92. The Greenes paid more per acre for their land than Reid or Harvey, but at approximately \$31/acre for 130 acres, this was well below the 1950 county average value of \$125.28.¹⁰² The doubling in land value may reflect the booming market for tobacco: in 1950 the price per pound of tobacco was three times the price in 1940.

Within the period 1950-1957, the final transfer of land to unrelated African-American tenants occurred within the historic period with the purchase of 130 acres belonging to Lizzie Thomas, daughter of James T. and Christianna R. Parran, by Houston and Maggie Jones in November 1950. The land was transferred the following year to the couple's daughter and son-in-law, Dorothy and Benjamin L. Jones. As Dorothy Jones recalls, her parents could not afford to keep up mortgage payments on the \$4,000 purchase price. She and her husband purchased the land with the assistance of future Maryland State Comptroller and prominent Calvert Countian, Louis Goldstein. Goldstein found an investor to loan the Joneses the purchase money.

Fully half of the historic resources in the Ponds Wood Road community are associated with the establishment of new farms by former tenants during the period 1940 to 1957. The persistence of tenant farming in the community is demonstrated by two tenant dwellings constructed during the 1940s, at 755 Ponds Wood Road (Seaward Henry Spears), and 3009 Ponds Wood Road (Talmage Hutchins).

Networks

The land transfers on Ponds Wood Road during the historic period demonstrate the existence of social and family networks that helped advance the economic status of African Americans in the area. The intertwining of families begins with the first generation of African-American owners. Thomas W. Ray, who purchased 335 acres of land in 1903, was the son of R. Wesley Ray and Molly Jones,

¹⁰¹ This is a common recollection among descendants of Reid, Jones, and Ray families.

¹⁰² During the '20s, '30s, and '40s, white farmers also purchased land in the Ponds Wood Road community. At least three of these properties were farmed by African-American tenants: a 204-acre tract owned by Joseph John and Viola Sarah Lyons; a 189-acre tract owned by Seaward Henry Spears; and a tract of 98 acres owned first by Leila Hutchins, and later her son, Talmage Hutchins. Three of these tenants, James and Beulah Jones, Elizabeth and Mervin Jones Jr., and Dorothy and Benjamin L. Jones, later purchased land on Ponds Wood Road.

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according to Ray family tradition.¹⁰³ Molly, the same tradition holds, was the sister of Joseph John Jones Sr., who purchased land in the community two years after Ray.¹⁰⁴ Thomas W. Ray is also connected to the third African American to purchase land on Ponds Wood Road at the beginning of the twentieth century: Christianna R. Parran is the daughter of R. Wesley Ray, making her Ray's half-sister.¹⁰⁵ The Parrans paid \$2,000 for 200 acres in 1904. Christianna's brother, Robert W. Ray Jr., held a \$1,100 mortgage on the property which the couple paid off in one year.

Family ties were significant in the next major wave of land transfers, between 1930 and 1950. During this period, the original purchasers – Ray, Jones, and Parran – were selling or giving land to children and grandchildren who had sharecropped their land. In addition, Jesse Reid, who purchased land on Ponds Wood Road from the Soper family in 1930, and his brother, Allnut Reid, who purchased land on the road from the same family in 1940, were married to sisters Lydia and Essie, both daughters of Joseph John Jones Sr.

Social networks were also important in the progress of African-American tenant farmers to landownership on Ponds Wood Road. In 1900, Thomas W. Ray was a 26-year-old black sharecropper living in the first district of Anne Arundel County.¹⁰⁶ By the next census, Ray had purchased 335 acres on Ponds Wood Road from the Barber family, a farm that he owns "free of mortgage." According to Thomas W. Ray's great-grandson, Darryl, word on the available property was passed to Ray and other trustees of Mount Hope Church; Ray was the only one to act on the tip. Family tradition also holds that Ray had lived on the property as a child. Census records from 1880 appear to support this statement: Margaret Jones, son Thomas, and daughter Lizzie were the 144th family visited by the census taker; Philip D. Barber and his wife, Sallie A. Barber, were the 150th.¹⁰⁷

While his connections are not as direct and definitive, in 1867, an Edward Quill was one of seven trustees purchasing land from John and Mary Somervell for the purpose of building "a school house for the use, benefit, and education of the Colored people of Calvert County forever" near the Old Hunting Creek Meeting House.¹⁰⁸ In 1889, it may be the same Edward Quill who buys land from Somervell's former neighbors on Ponds Wood Road. The circumstances behind the purchase of land by Joseph John Jones Sr. are not as well known but, there appears to be a similar neighborhood connection. The family history reports that Jones was the son of Priscilla Jones, a free black woman, and Collin Chambers, a white farmer.¹⁰⁹ Census data show the family living on a farm in Huntingtown in 1860. In addition to Chambers, Priscilla Jones, and four-year-old Joseph, the family includes seven other Jones children.¹¹⁰ A decade later, Joseph Jones is a 12-year-old laborer on the farm, and Priscilla tops the list of family members with Chambers last, indicating that she is head of the household.¹¹¹ Their dwelling lies close to that of John A. Cox and Mary E. Cox. Joseph Jones' status as a laborer continues in 1880, but by 1900 he is listed as a farmer who rents his farm. In 1905, Jones buys the land of his boyhood neighbor, Mary E. Cox, now deceased, whose 250-acre property extends from Ponds Wood Road to Cox Road on

¹⁰³ Interview with Darryl Ray, great-grandson of Thomas W. Ray, 10 May 2007

¹⁰⁴ Molly is a diminutive for Mary, and Joseph John Jones Sr. did have an older sister named Mary, according to the 1860 census. However, in the 1880 census, there is no unmarried Mary Jones living in the area with a son named Thomas. There is a family headed by Margaret Jones, 45, living near the family headed by R. Wesley Ray. Margaret Jones' family includes nine-year-old Thomas.

¹⁰⁵ R. Wesley Ray's family in 1880 includes 17-year-old Christianna

¹⁰⁶ 1900 population schedule, T623, Roll 605, page 236.

¹⁰⁷ In interview notes taken by an earlier surveyor, a "Mrs. Ray," possibly the wife of Mord Ray, Thomas W. Ray's son, says her father-in-law bought the buildings from "Aunt Sally Barber." CT-104, Historic preservation files, Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning. Mrs. Barber and her brother Howe S. Allnut inherited more than 1,000 acres of land in the Huntingtown area from their father, James J. Allnut

¹⁰⁸ The other trustees were Robert Gray, Joseph Bowman, John W. Brown, Henry Gross, Abraham Hicks, and Thomas Gray (Land records of Calvert County, Liber SS 1, Folio 375)

¹⁰⁹ Jones Family history, 1986. More than 500 descendants attended the first Jones family reunion at Breezy Point Beach in 1986. In July 2007, Jones descendants will gather at the Allnut Reid property on Ponds Wood Road.

¹¹⁰ 1860 population schedule, Series M653, Roll 470, Page 98

¹¹¹ 1870 population

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the south. Jones purchases the land from Robert H. Norfolk, who holds Jones' note for the purchase price of \$1,200. Jones, who had 18 children, grew tobacco and corn, raised sheep, hogs, and poultry, and kept cows for milk. On the occasion of his descendants' first reunion in 1986, the *Calvert Independent* noted that Jones was "one of Calvert County's most prosperous black farmers."¹¹²

Brothers Jesse Reid and Allnut Reid bought land on Ponds Wood Road a decade apart, but from the same family, the Sopers. One of Jesse Reid's descendants recalls that her family was living and working as tenants for the McLean family on Breezy Point Farm in 1930 when her father was approached by Myrtie Soper who was acting on behalf of her siblings to sell some of the land belonging to the family.¹¹³ Reid was given his choice of several farms, and selected one comprising 125 acres located on the south side of Ponds Wood Road. A decade later, the Soper heirs were selling 108 acres of family land on the north side of Ponds Wood Road. At the time, Allnut Reid was tenantry on the Neeld Estate, and purchased the Soper land in 1940 with the help of a government loan.¹¹⁴

The Greene brothers, Leroy and Almos, sharecropped for their father and later for the Jones family on Jones Road in Plum Point before they purchased 67 acres from Warren and Mildred Ray Parran in 1945. This land was part of the 200 acres that had been purchased by Warren Parran's parents, James T. and Christianna R. Parran in 1905.

Three years after the death of Joseph John Jones Sr., his wife, Alice, and other heirs sold 108 acres of the family property to Richard Parran Harvey, who was a tenant farmer on Lower Marlboro Road. While Harvey had no apparent connections to the Jones family, he was known by them, and they decided to sell him the land.¹¹⁵

In the landscape of the Ponds Wood Road community is written the history of the African-American families who progressed from tenancy to land ownership during the period 1889 to 1958. The district contains a significant concentration of buildings, structures, and vistas associated with these farmers and representative of the era when this transition was taking place, helping to reshape Calvert County society.

¹¹² "Descendants Gather to Remember 'Grandpa,'" *The Calvert Independent*, undated article, Jones Family file, Calvert County Historical Society, Prince Frederick, Maryland

¹¹³ Interview with Frances Reid Hayes, spring 2007, conducted by William Poe. Transcript in the historic preservation files, Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning, Prince Frederick, Maryland

¹¹⁴ Interview with Jesse Reid, 3016 Ponds Wood Road, 26 April 2007

¹¹⁵ Telephone interview with Eloise Ray, 17 May 2007; Transcript of interview with Frances Reid Hayes conducted by William Poe, spring 2007, as part of the 2006 Ponds Wood Road tenant farming project

Table 1. Population of Calvert County, Maryland, 1860-1950

	Total	White	African American
1860	10,447	3,997	6,450 ¹
1870	9,865	4,332	5,553
1880	10,538	4,842	5,696
1890	9,860	4,796	5,064
1900	10,223	5,080	5,143
1910	10,319	5,279	5,040
1920	9,744	4,955	4,789
1930	9,528	5,009	4,519
1940	10,484	5,604	4,880
1950	12,096	6,972	5,124

¹ Listed as 4,609 slaves and 1,841 freedmen

**Table 2. Farm ownership and tobacco production
Calvert County, Maryland, 1870-1950**

	1870 ²	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950
Total number of farms	495	882	1,001	1,077	1,080	1,130	1,103	1,177	1,218
Average value per acre (\$)	18.28 ³	16.44	13.88	11.32/ 16.14	10.61/ 17.17 ⁴	23.41/ 36.02	26.72/ 49.55 ⁵	45.59	125.28
White owners	N/A	N/A	N/A	392	450	523	392	402	480
African American owners	N/A	N/A	N/A	203	252	249	161	142	146
Total number cash rental & share tenants	N/A	332	118	466	376	348	482	604	489 ⁶
---For fixed money (cash) rental	N/A	36	12	22	26	15	6	17	3
---For share of products	N/A	296	106	444	346 ⁷	287/26 ⁸	476 ⁹	587 ¹⁰	188/248 ¹¹

²Data on tenure of farm operators was first collected in 1880. Data on ethnicity by tenure was first collected in 1900³ This figure represents total dollar value of farms in the county divided by total farm acreage. The 1900 census was the first to collect data on the value of buildings on farms, therefore, two figures are given, the first for land and the second for land, buildings, and fences.⁴ Average value per acre of land provided. Second figure arrived at by dividing total dollar value for land and buildings by total farm acreage.⁵ 1925 value: 25.09 land/42.55 land and buildings/per acre⁶ Includes unspecified/other category (50). 1945: 662. Tenant farms as percentage of all farms: 1950: 40.1; 1945: 49.1.⁷ In 1910, two other categories of tenancy were recorded: share-cash (0) and tenure not specified (4).⁸ In 1920, the share category was divided between "share" (287) and "croppers" (26).⁹ In 1930, tenancy arrangements other than cash were recorded under "all other tenants."¹⁰ In 1950, the share category breaks down as share cash (1), share tenants and croppers (555), and other tenants (31).¹¹ Share tenants are divided between crop share (187) and livestock share (1); croppers (248).

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Table 2. continued	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950
White tenants/total	N/A	N/A	N/A	266	205	178	240	300	151
---White/cash	---	---	---	12	N/A	N/A	4	N/A	N/A
---White/share	---	---	---	254	N/A	N/A	68/168 ¹²	131 ¹³	48 ¹⁴
African American tenants/total	N/A	N/A	N/A	202	171	170	242	304	338
---African American/cash	---	---	---	10	N/A	N/A	2	N/A	N/A
---African American/share	---	---	---	192	N/A	N/A	73/167 ¹⁵	160 ¹⁶	200 ¹⁷
Tobacco production acres	N/A	6,848	3,683	10,137	5,194	5,402	6,609	8,476 ¹⁸	8,117
Tobacco production pounds	3,158,200	3,886,845	1,781,690	4,768,180	3,367,358	2,470,200	4,006,450	5,193,521	5,993,127 ¹⁹
Value of tobacco	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	300,602 ²⁰	815,616	1,089,754	955,608	2,906,667

¹² 1930: 68 croppers; 168 other tenants.

¹³ 1940: 131 white croppers (1935: 92)

¹⁴ 1950: 48 white croppers

¹⁵ 1930: 73 croppers; 167 other

¹⁶ 1940: 160 African American croppers (1935: 111)

¹⁷ 1950: 200 African American croppers

¹⁸ 1944 data; reported on 1950 census

¹⁹ Tobacco harvested in 1949. Value of Tobacco sold in 1950: 2,735,661

²⁰ The value of tobacco was included in the category "all other crops" in 1910 and 1920. Since it likely comprised the greatest percentage of this statistic, it is included here

Source: U. S. Census, Schedule of Agriculture, 1870-1950, <http://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/dicennial/index.htm>

Notes: N/A= No data available. Owners are full owners, not part owners, managers, or tenants

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Table 3.**Ponds Wood Road Community****Pattern of Property Transfer, 1870-1957**

Transfer by Ethnicity	1870-1899	1900-1909	1910-1919	1920-1929	1930-1939	1940-1949	1950-1957
White to African American	1 (4) ²¹	3 (784)	0	0	1 (125)	3 (121)	1 (130) ²²
White to White	8 (858)	1 (123)	3 (390)	2 (390)	5 (550)	5 ²³ (506)	2 (372)
Intra-family	4	0	1	1	2	1	1
African American to White	0	0	0	0	1 (4)	2 (131)	0
African American to African American ²⁴	0	1 (15)	1 (45)	2 (63)	5 (267)	11 (267)	4 (177)
Intra-family	0	1	1	2	5	7	3

Transfer by Tenure of African American Purchaser	1870-1899	1900-1909	1910-1919	1920-1929	1930-1939	1940-1949	1950-1959
Unrelated Tenant	0	2	0	0	1	6	2
Family Tenant ²⁵	0	1	1	2	6	5	1
Owner	1	2 ²⁶	0	0	0	4	3

²¹ Total acres transferred. In cases where more than one intra-family transfer of same acreage takes place in same decade, acreage counted only once.

²² In 1950, Houston and Maggie Jones, who owned two acres outside the area, purchased 130 acres on Ponds Wood Road from white merchant Arthur Lyons. This land had been sold to Lyons in 1947 by African-Americans Elizabeth (Lizzie) Thomas and her husband, Howard. Lizzie Thomas was the daughter of Christianna Parran. In 1951, the Jones sold the land to their daughter, Dorothy, and her husband, Benjamin.

²³ Smith property transferred twice to different owners in 1940s, four times in 1950s.

²⁴ If a family member received more than one property from parents in a decade, only one transfer is recorded but acreage is total: Wilford Harrison Jones (1954, 1955, 1957: 3.8 acres); and Calvert and Josephine Ray (1945 and 1949: 12 acres). Mildred Ray, later Mildred Ray Parran, obtained property in three different decades from her father, Thomas W. Ray, and the transfers and acreage are recorded accordingly. For the first transfer, she is included in tenure category "family tenant," for second and third transfers, her tenure is "owner."

²⁵ Based on interviews with family members.

²⁶ James T. and Christianna R. Parran were already landowners when they purchased property on Ponds Wood Road in 1904.

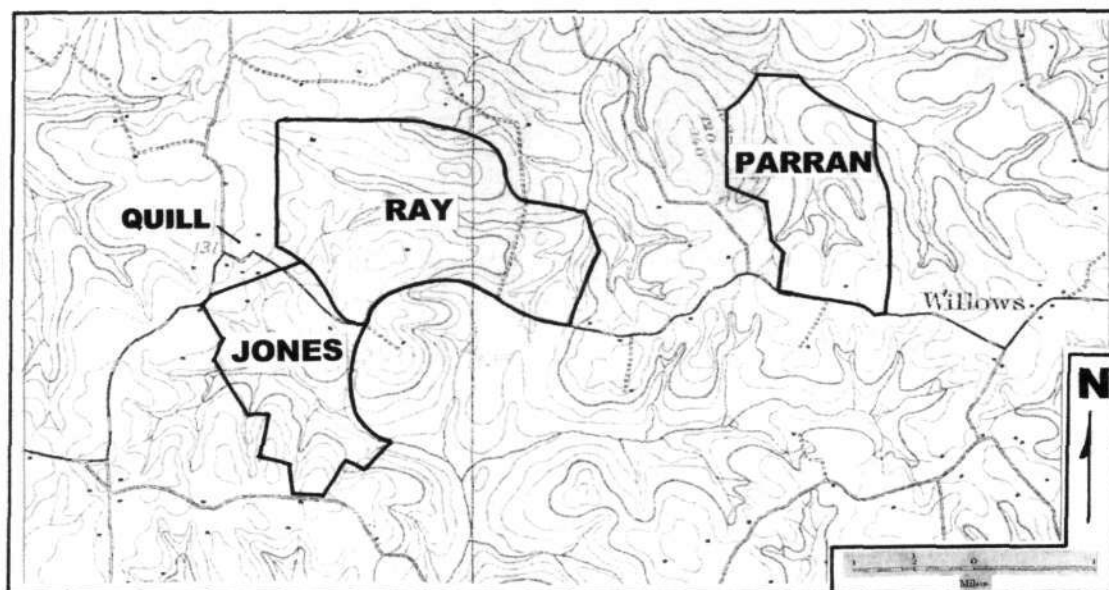


Fig. S-1 Farm Land Purchase by African Americans on Ponds Wood Road, 1889-1910

Base Map: Topographic Map of the Prince Frederick, Maryland Quad, U.S. Geological Survey, 1910.

Surveyed 1890, Revised 1903, 1904-05. Available on the World Wide Web:

<http://www.historical.maptech.com/getImage.cfm?fname=prfr10ne.jpg&state=MD>

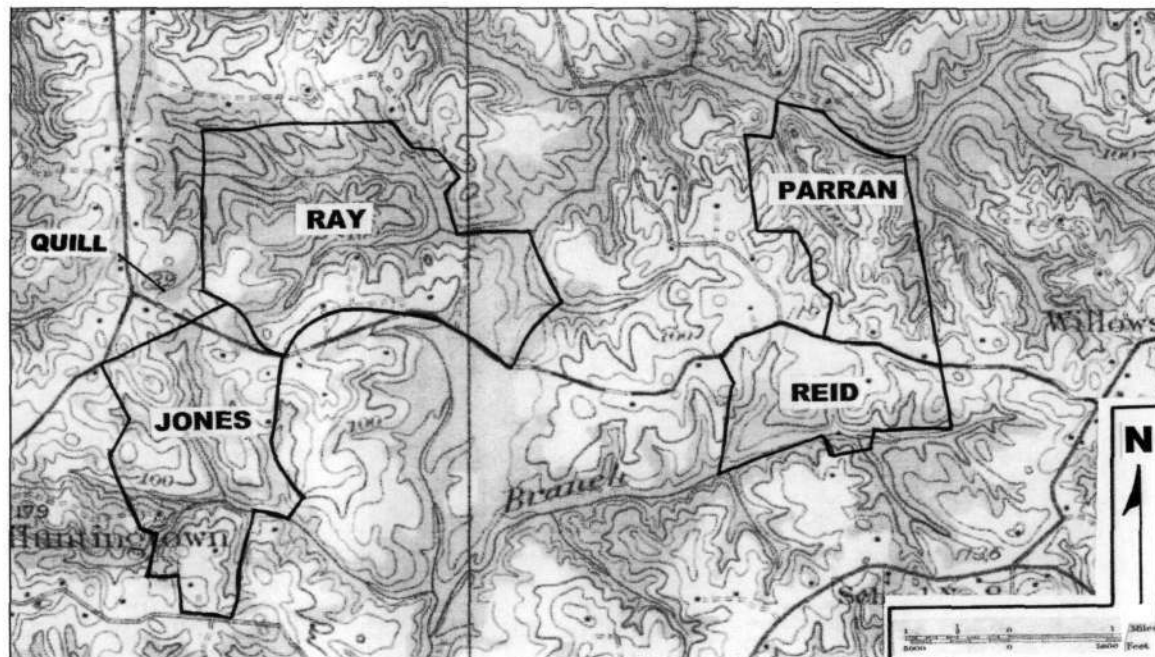


Fig. S-2 Farm Land Purchase by African Americans on Ponds Wood Road, 1920-1939

Base map: Topographic Map of Prince Frederick, Maryland Quadrangle, U. S. Geological Survey, 1938.

Surveyed 1934, 1935. Available on the World Wide Web:

<http://www.historical.maptech.com/getImage.cfm?fname=prfr38ne.jpg&state=MD>

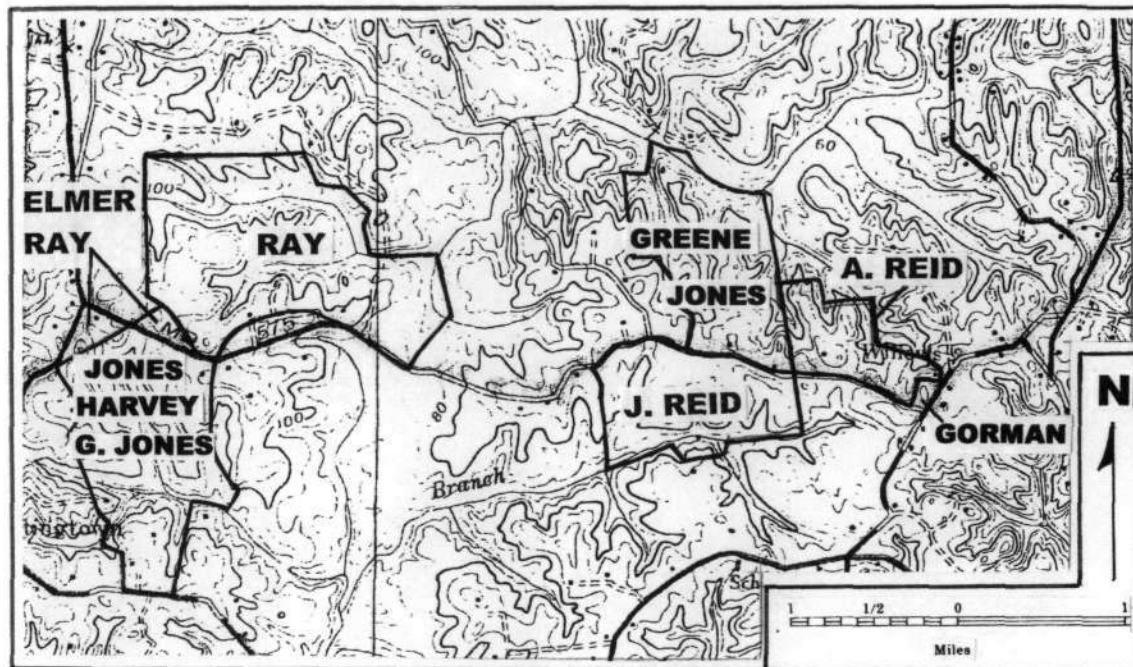


Fig. S-3 Farm Land Purchase by African Americans on Ponds Wood Road, 1940-1949
Base map: Map of Calvert County Showing the Topography and Election Districts, State of Maryland Department of Geology, Mines, and Water Resources, 1949, Rev. 1953. Located in Special Collections, University of Maryland Hornbake Library

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Primary sources: Deeds, U.S. Census Population and Agricultural Schedules, Historic Maps, Oral interviews.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	284.45	
Acreage of historical setting	472.95	
Quadrangle name	North Beach and Prince Frederick	Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the Ponds Wood Road Community reflects the expansive distribution of historic resources along the road and the irregular shape of the parcels. As a farming community, fields associated with the buildings and structures comprise an important part of the historic setting and are included in the above acreage totals. For most of the resources in the district, Ponds Wood Road comprises the north or south boundary. The properties with historic resources are identified on a composite parcel map of the area (Maps 15, 16, and 18); the district boundary is a continuous line around the properties and incorporating Ponds Wood Road, a contributing resource.

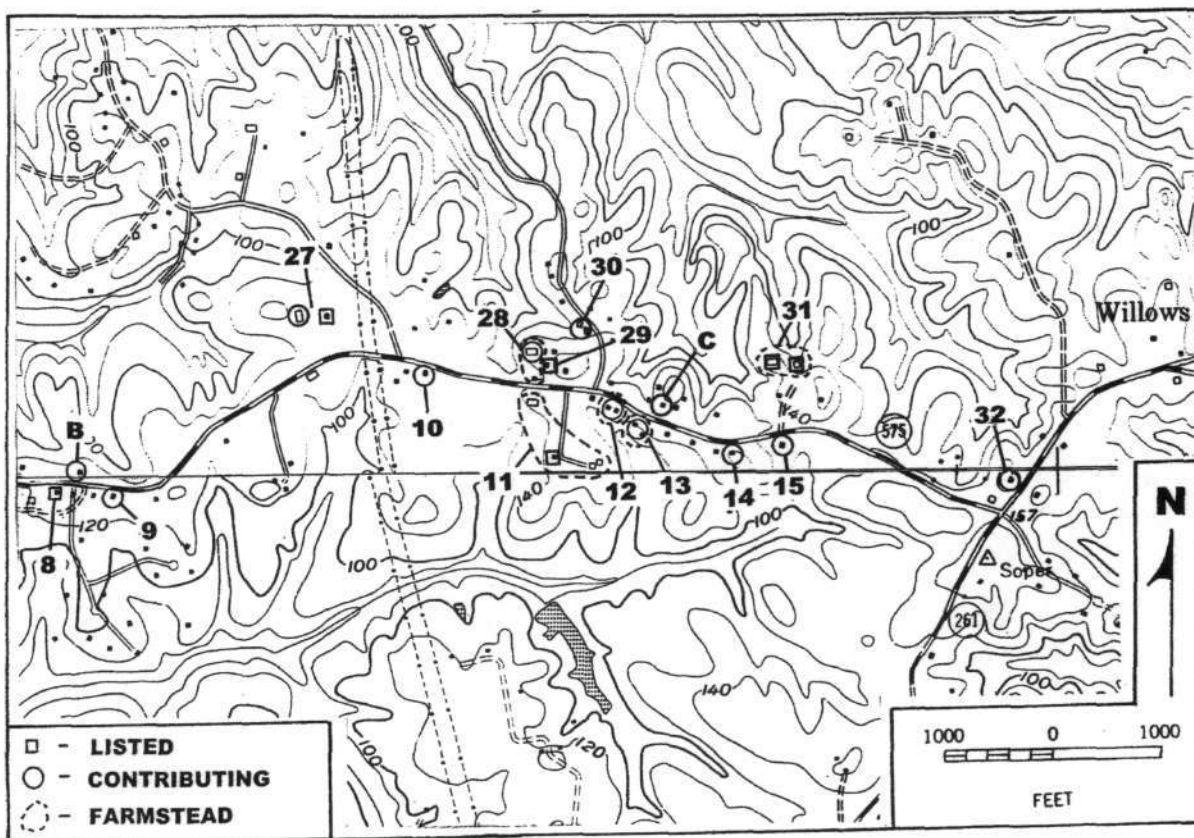
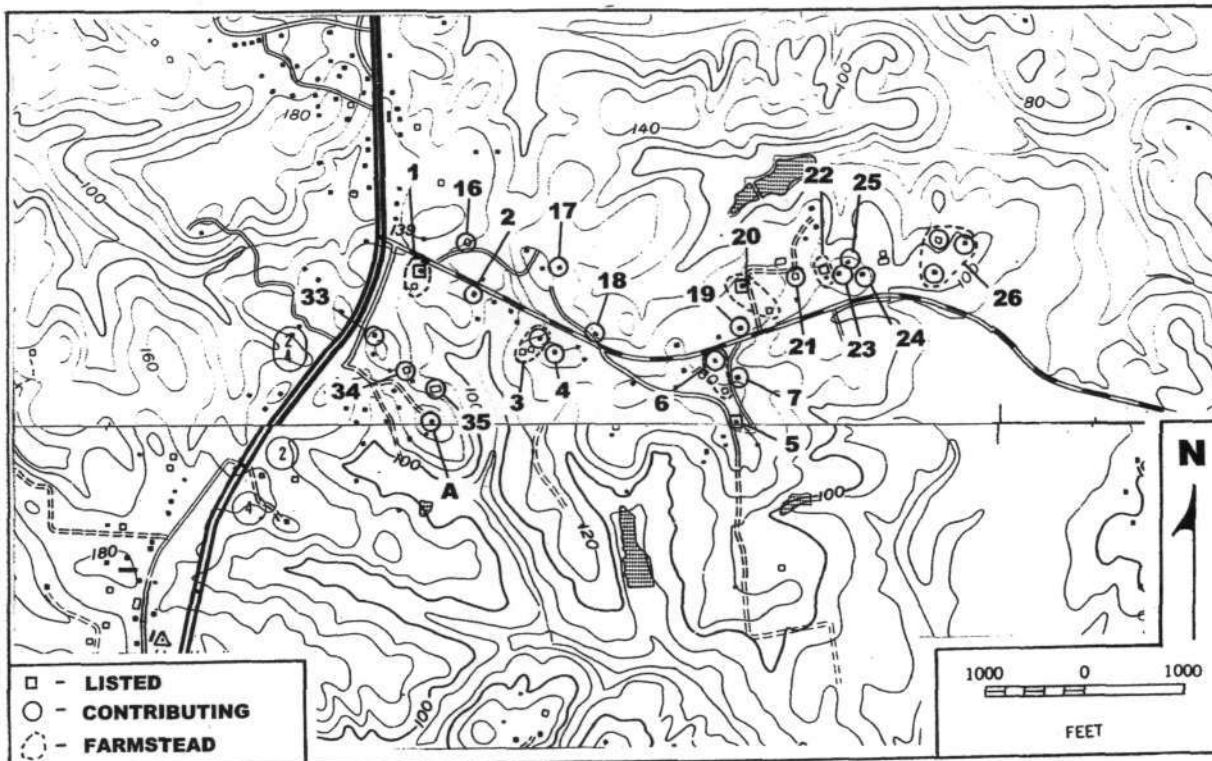
11 Form Prepared by

name/title	Rosemary Faya Prola		
organization	CADRE, Inc., School of Architecture, Planning,	date	26 July 2007
street & number	and Preservation, University of Maryland	telephone	301.405.6309
city or town	College Park	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



RESOURCE LOCATION MAP (West section, top; East section, below)

North Beach and Prince Frederick Maryland Quads, United States Department of the Interior Geological Survey, 1953 (North Beach, Photo revised 1979; Prince Frederick, Rev. 1993)

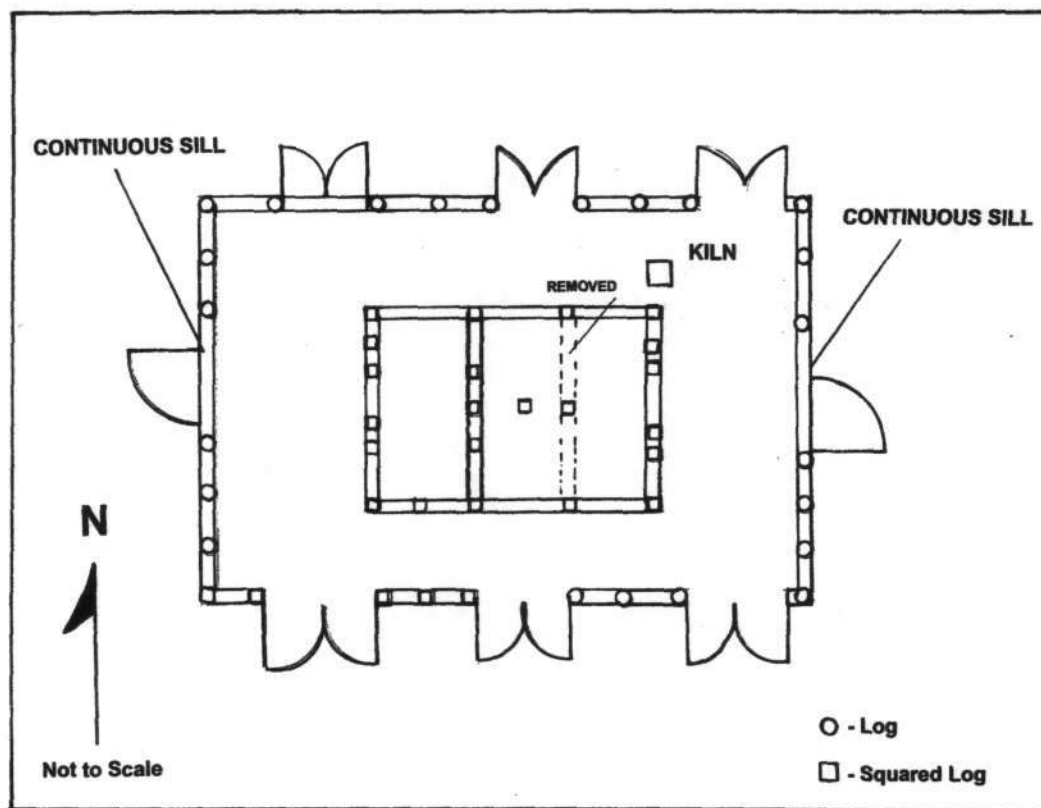
RESOURCE LOCATION MAP KEY

1. 135 Ponds Wood Road, Elmer Ray House, CT-379
 2. 201 Ponds Wood Road, Henry Jones Farmstead
 3. 4470 Harvest Lane, Wilford Jones Farmstead
 4. 4475 Harvest Lane, Joseph John Jones Jr. House
 5. 755 Ponds Wood Road, Cox Farm, CT-213
 6. 675 Ponds Wood Road, Howard and Mary Ray Farmstead
 7. 755 Ponds Wood Road, Spears Tenant House
 8. 3930 Moonbeam Avenue, Thomas W. Sweeney Log Barn, CT-380
 9. 3951 Moonbeam Avenue, Lyons Tobacco Barn
 10. 2355 and 2595 Ponds Wood Road, Ridgely and Lovelett Reid Farmstead
 11. 3950 Faith Lane and 2455 Ponds Wood Road, Bessie Reid House, CT-253
 12. 2785 Ponds Wood Road, Alice and Graham Brown Farmstead
 13. 2955 Ponds Wood Road, Russell and Eva Reid Farmstead
 14. 2985 Ponds Wood Road, Fletcher House
 15. 3009 Ponds Wood Road, Hutchins Tenant House
 16. 50 Ponds Wood Road, Tobacco Barn
 17. 510 Ponds Wood Road, James Farmstead
 18. 450 Ponds Wood Road, James and Beulah Jones House
 19. 780 Ponds Wood Road, Turner Ray House
 20. 4610 Rolling Hill Road, Ray House, CT-104
 21. 950 Ponds Wood Road, Howe Tobacco Barn
 22. 980 Ponds Wood Road, Parran/Prout Farmstead
 23. 990 Ponds Wood Road, Josephine Ray House
 24. 1030 Ponds Wood Road, Mildred Ray Parran House
 25. 970 Ponds Wood Road, Howe Cabin
 26. 1120 Ponds Wood Road, Elmer Ray Farmstead
 27. 2210-2220 Ponds Wood Road, Robinson's Rest, CT-21
 28. 2530 Ponds Wood Road, Leroy Greene Farmstead
 29. 2740 Ponds Wood Road, Carl Parran House, CT-252
 30. 4030 and 4150 Holbrook Lane, Parran Tobacco Barn and Stable
 31. 3010 and 3016 Ponds Wood Road, (Allnut Reid) Tobacco Barn, CT-102
 32. 3440 Bayside Road, Warren Gorman House
 33. 150 MacArthur Drive, Genius Jones House
 34. 4475 Turnabout Lane, Genius Jones Drive
 35. 136 Turnabout Lane, Richard Parran Harvey Tobacco Barn
- Unnumbered: Ponds Wood Road
-
- A. 150 Turnabout Lane - Joseph John Jones Sr. House Site
 - B. 1820 Ponds Wood Road - Lyons Store Site
 - C. 2980 Ponds Wood Road - Parran House Site

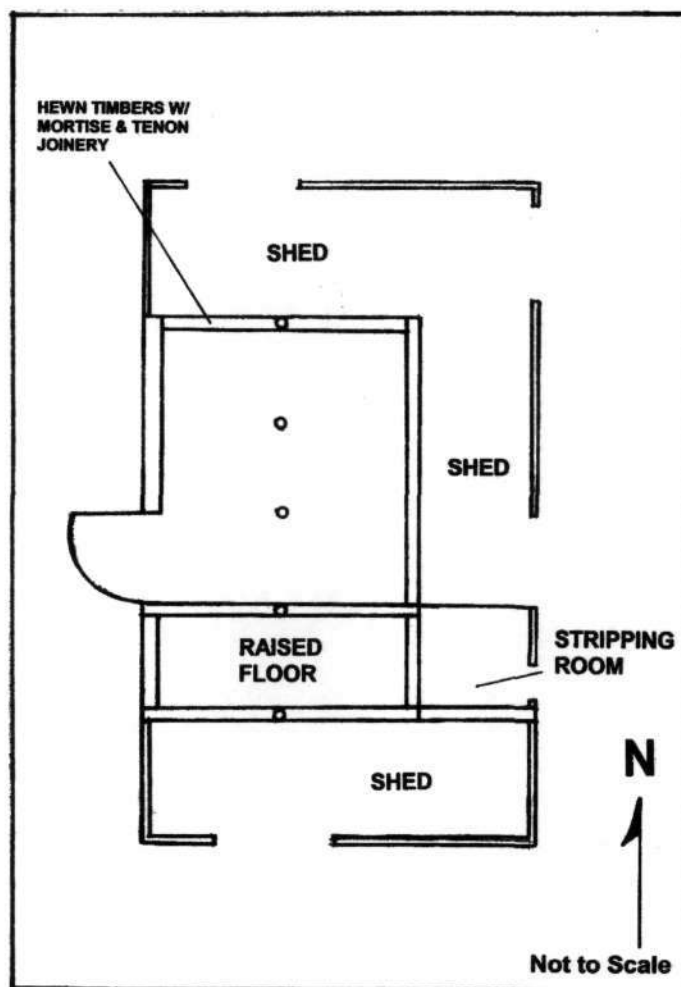
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- Unnumbered: Ponds Wood Road
-
- A. 150 Turnabout Lane - Joseph John Jones Sr. House Site
 - B. 1820 Ponds Wood Road - Lyons Store Site
 - C. 2980 Ponds Wood Road - Parran House Site

PLAN
ALLNUT REID TOBACCO BARN
3010 PONDS WOOD ROAD
Fig. 1



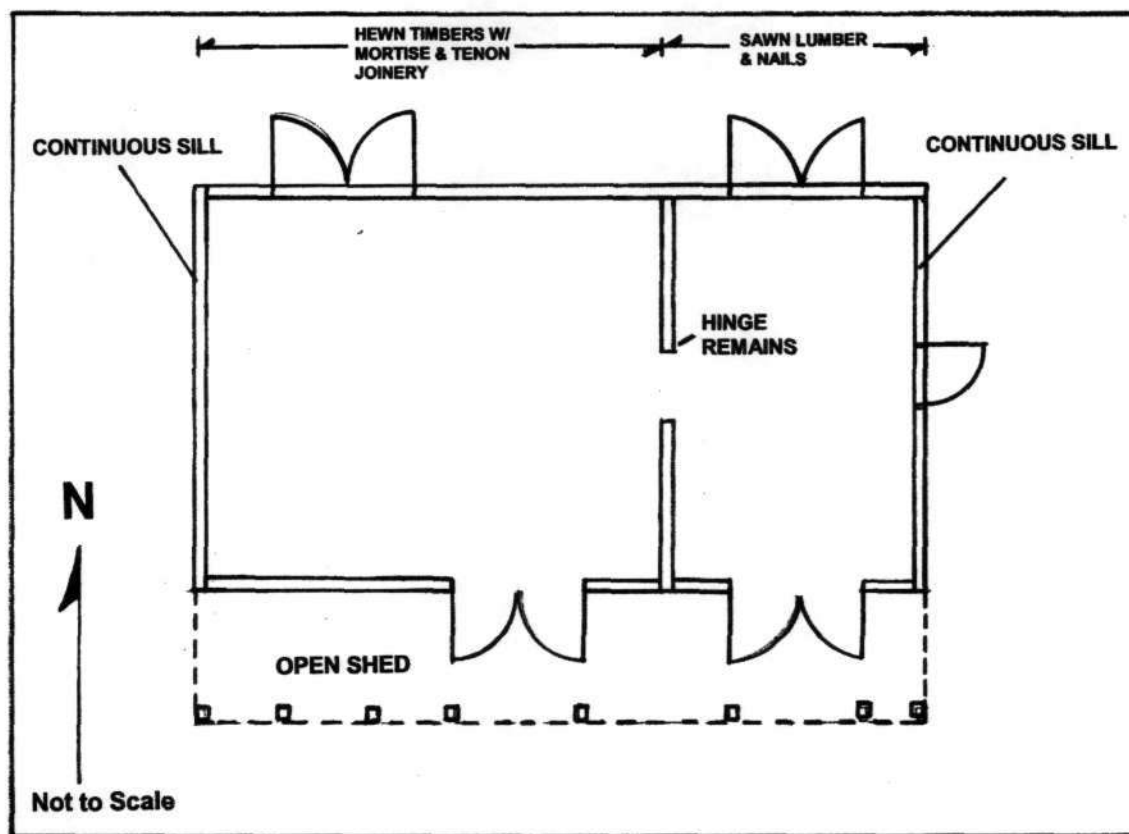
PLAN
TOBACCO BARN
2210 PONDS WOOD ROAD
Fig. 2



Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, Maryland

Inventory No. CT-1314

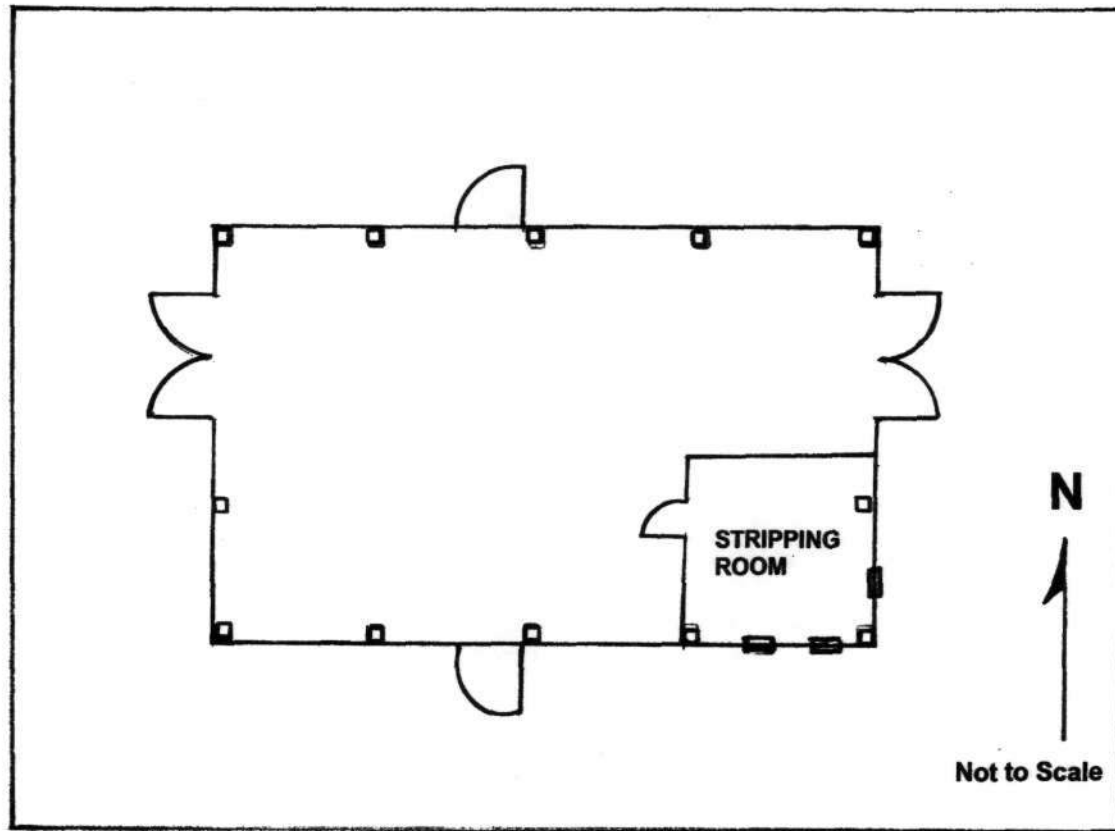
PLAN
TOBACCO BARN
3951 MOONBEAM AVENUE
Fig. 3



Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, Maryland

Inventory No. CT-1314

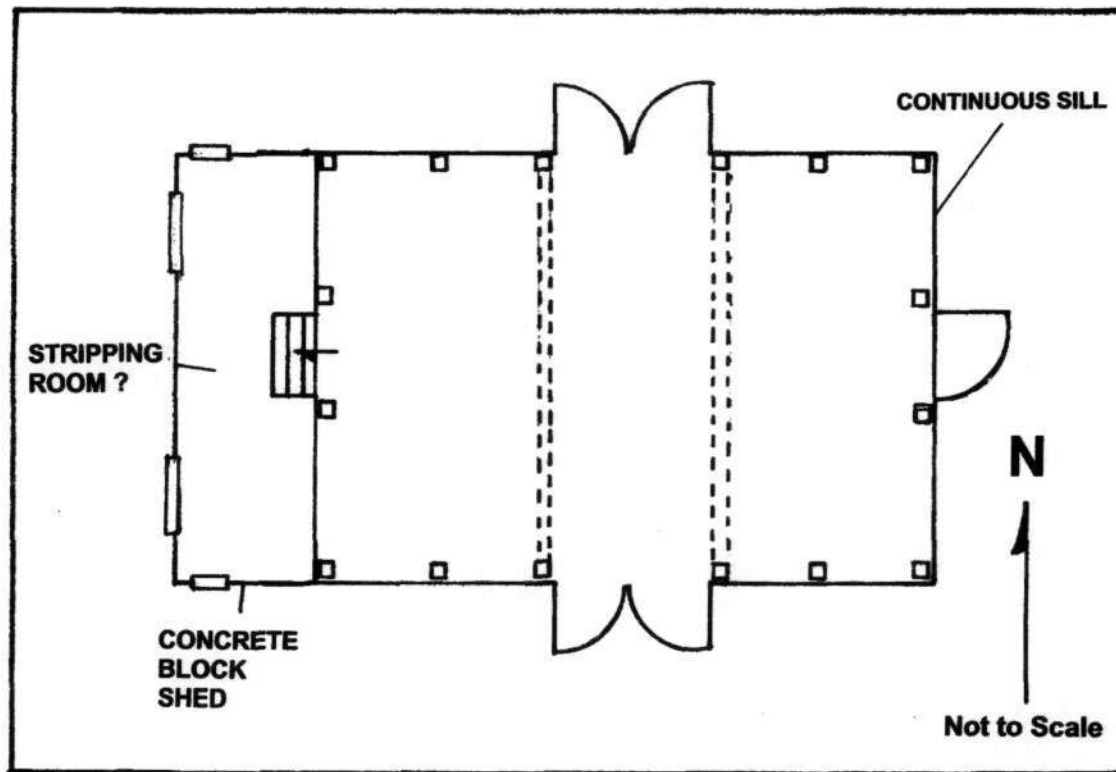
PLAN
TOBACCO BARN
50 PONDS WOOD ROAD
Fig. 4



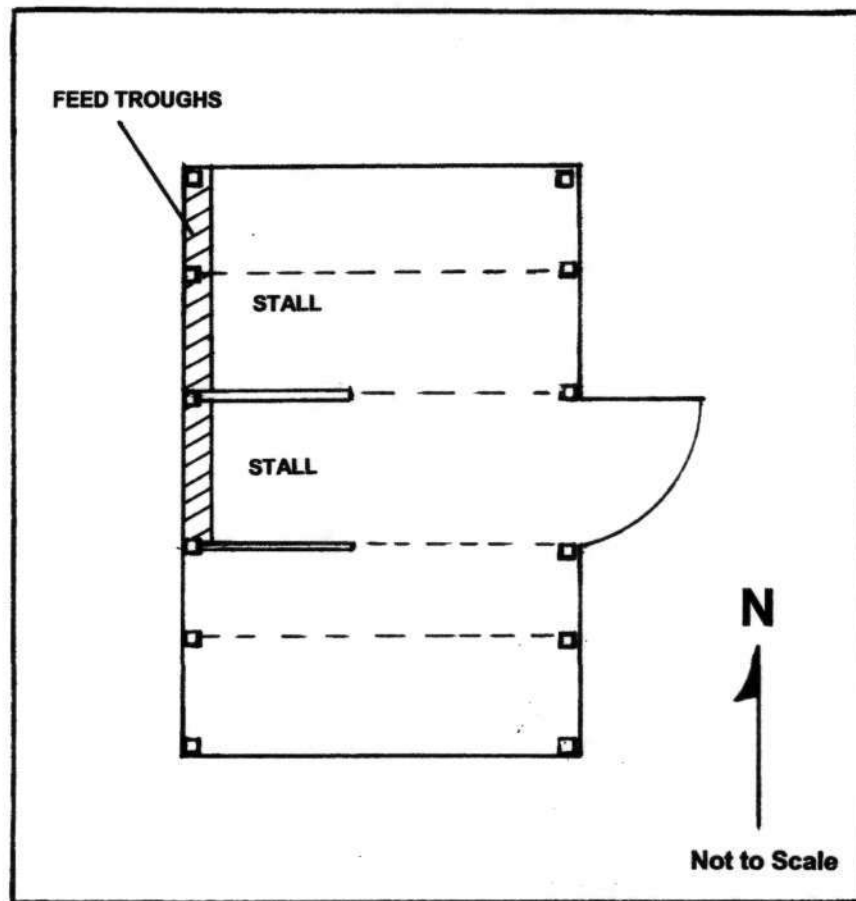
Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, Maryland

Inventory No. CT-1314

PLAN
TOBACCO BARN
4150 HOLBROOK LANE
Fig. 5



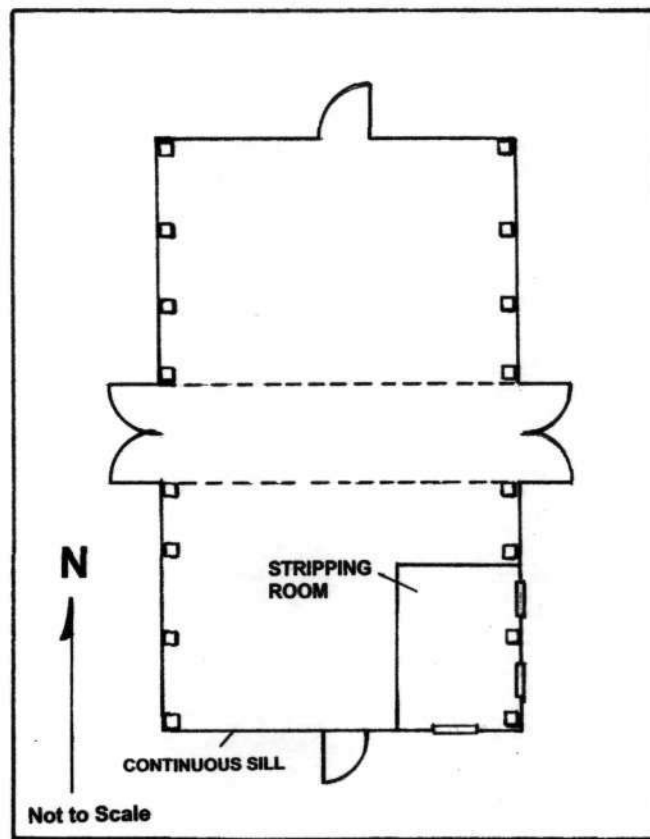
PLAN
STABLE
4030 HOLBROOK LANE
Fig. 6



Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, Maryland

Inventory No. CT-1314

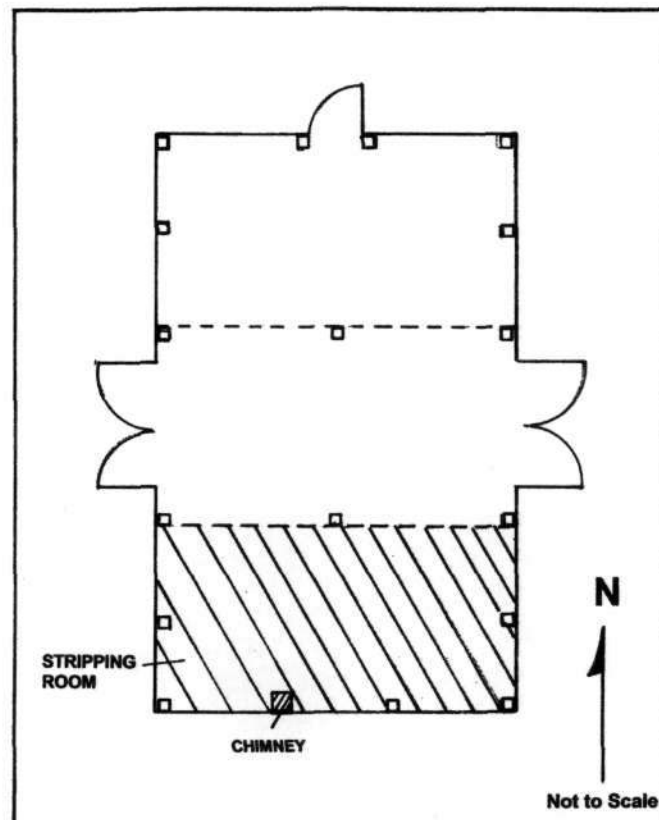
PLAN
TOBACCO BARN
4470 HARVEST LANE
Fig. 7



Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, Maryland

Inventory No. CT-1314

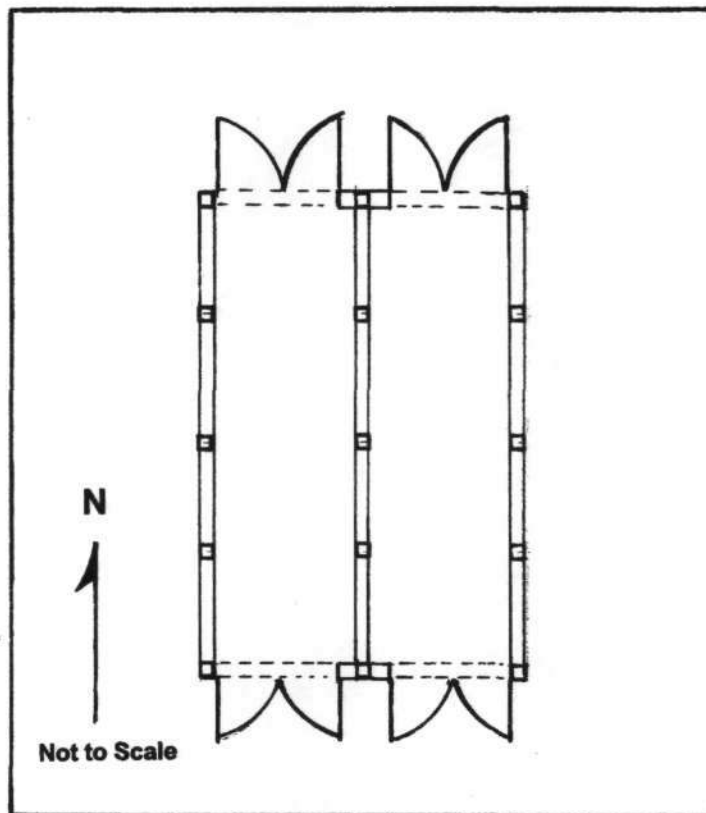
PLAN
TOBACCO BARN
2955 PONDS WOOD ROAD
Fig. 8



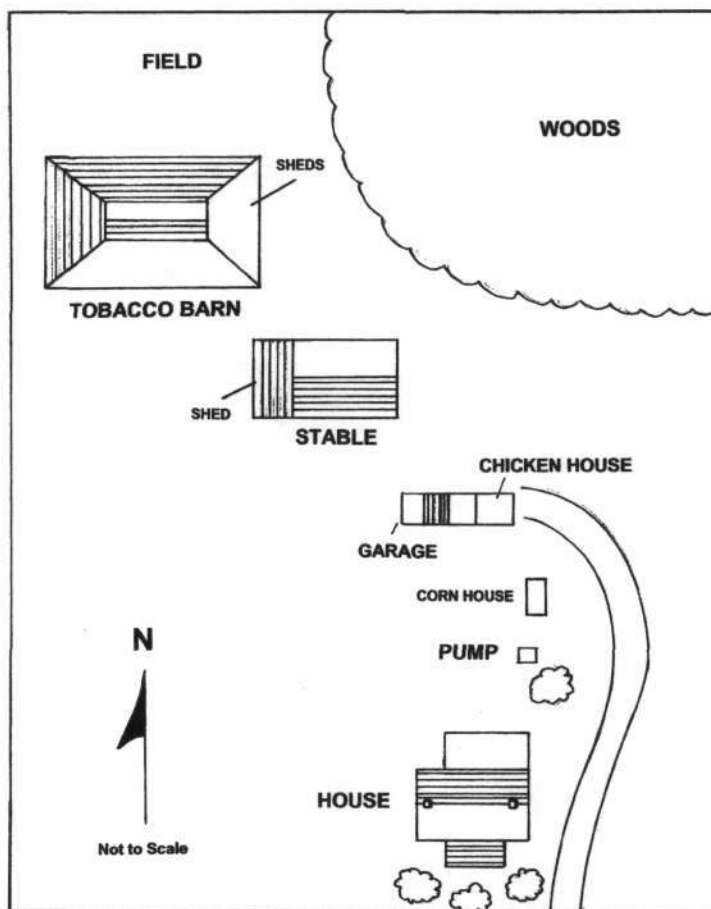
Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, Maryland

Inventory No. CT-1314

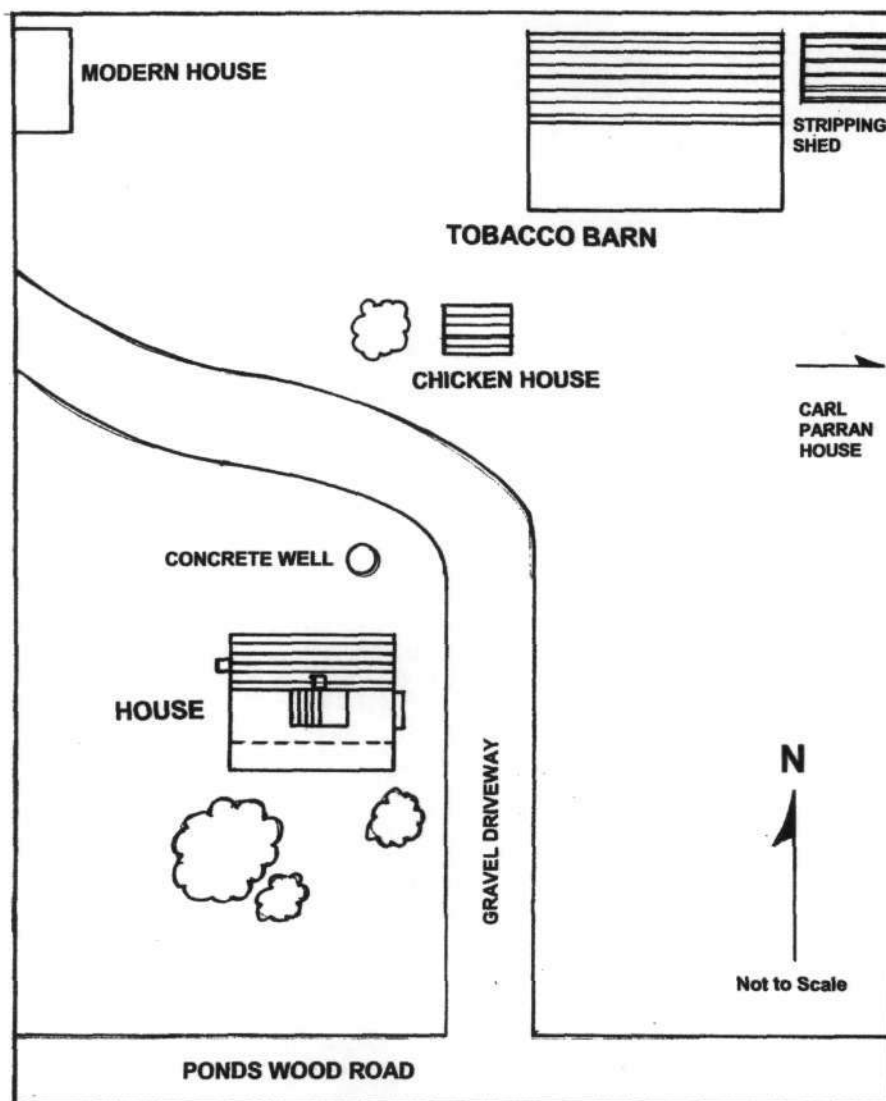
PLAN
TOBACCO BARN
2355 PONDS WOOD ROAD
Fig. 9



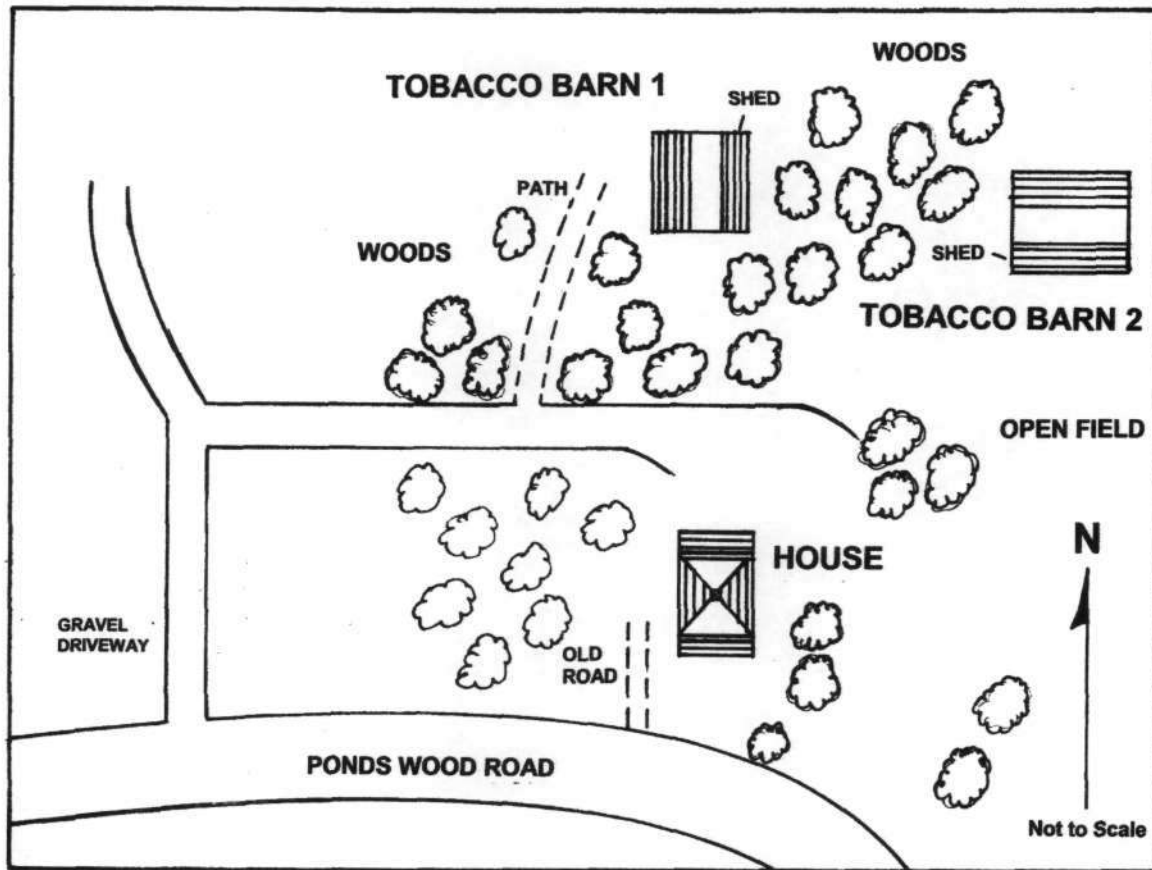
**RESOURCE SKETCH MAP
ALLNUT REID FARMSTEAD
3010 PONDS WOOD ROAD
Fig. 10**



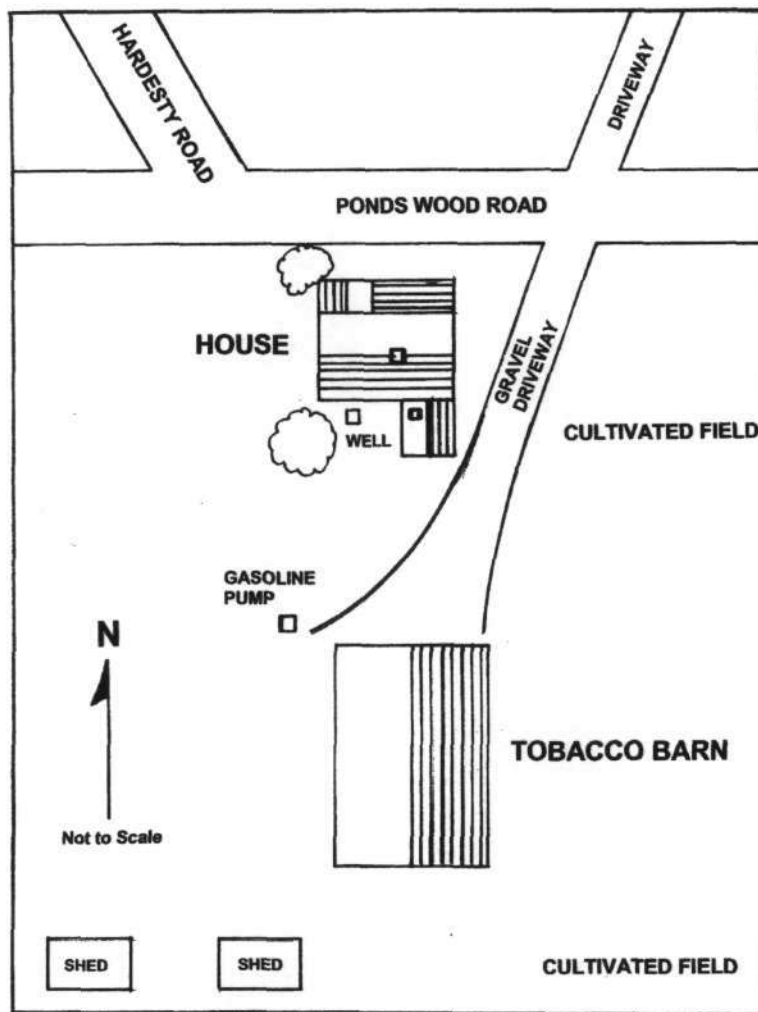
RESOURCE SKETCH MAP
GREENE FARMSTEAD
2530 PONDS WOOD ROAD
Fig. 11



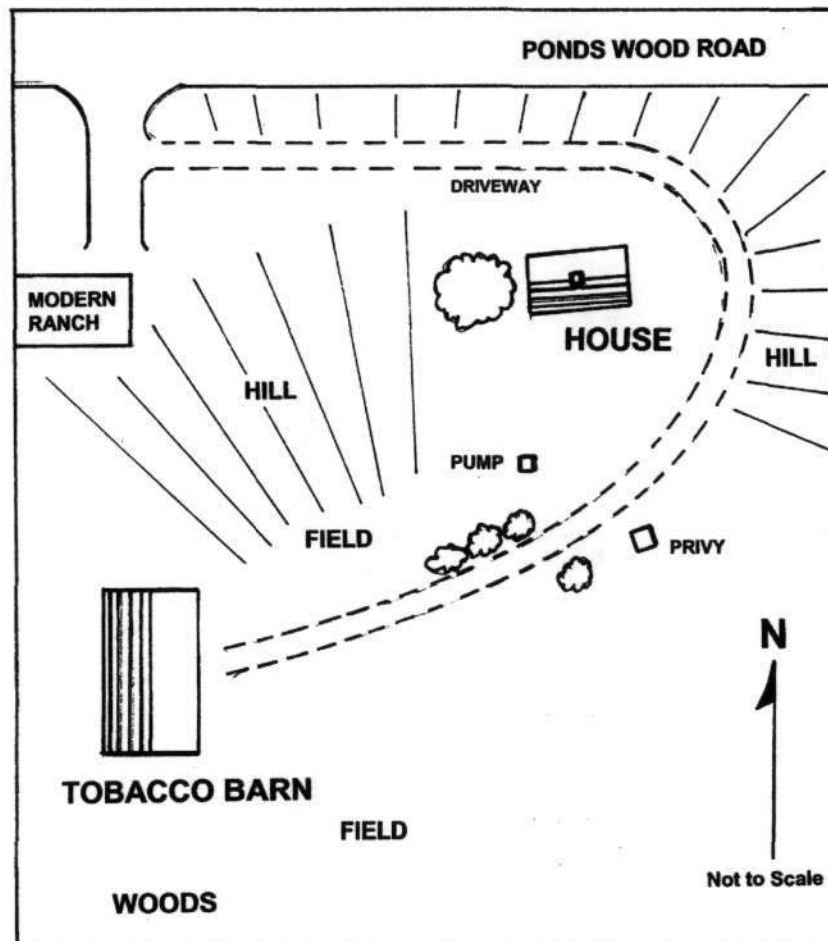
RESOURCE SKETCH MAP
ELMER RAY FARMSTEAD
1120 PONDS WOOD ROAD
Fig. 12

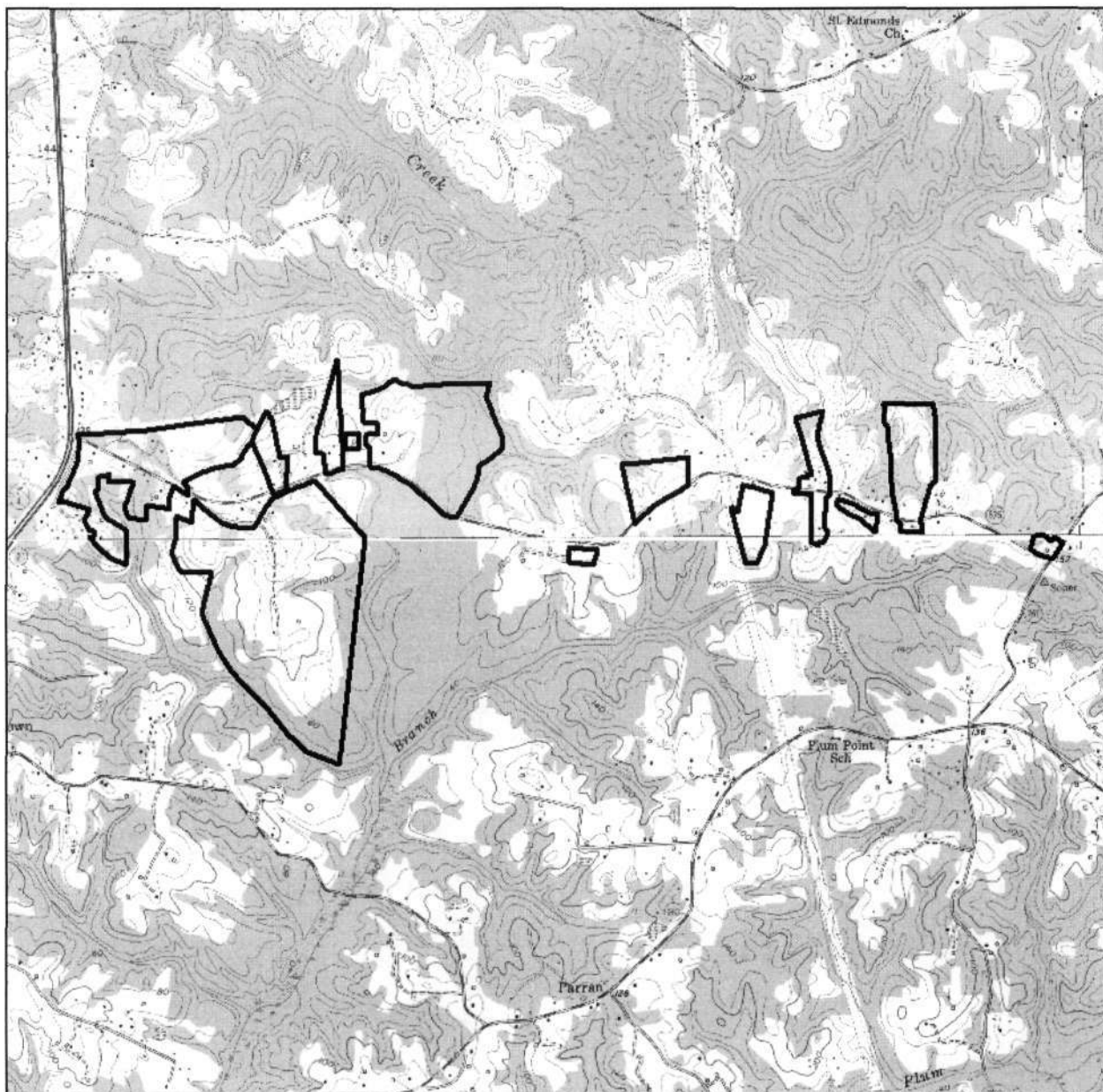


RESOURCE SKETCH MAP
RIDGELY AND LOVELETT REID FARMSTEAD
2355-2595 PONDS WOOD ROAD
Fig. 13



RESOURCE SKETCH MAP
JONES FARMSTEAD
201 PONDS WOOD ROAD
Fig. 14

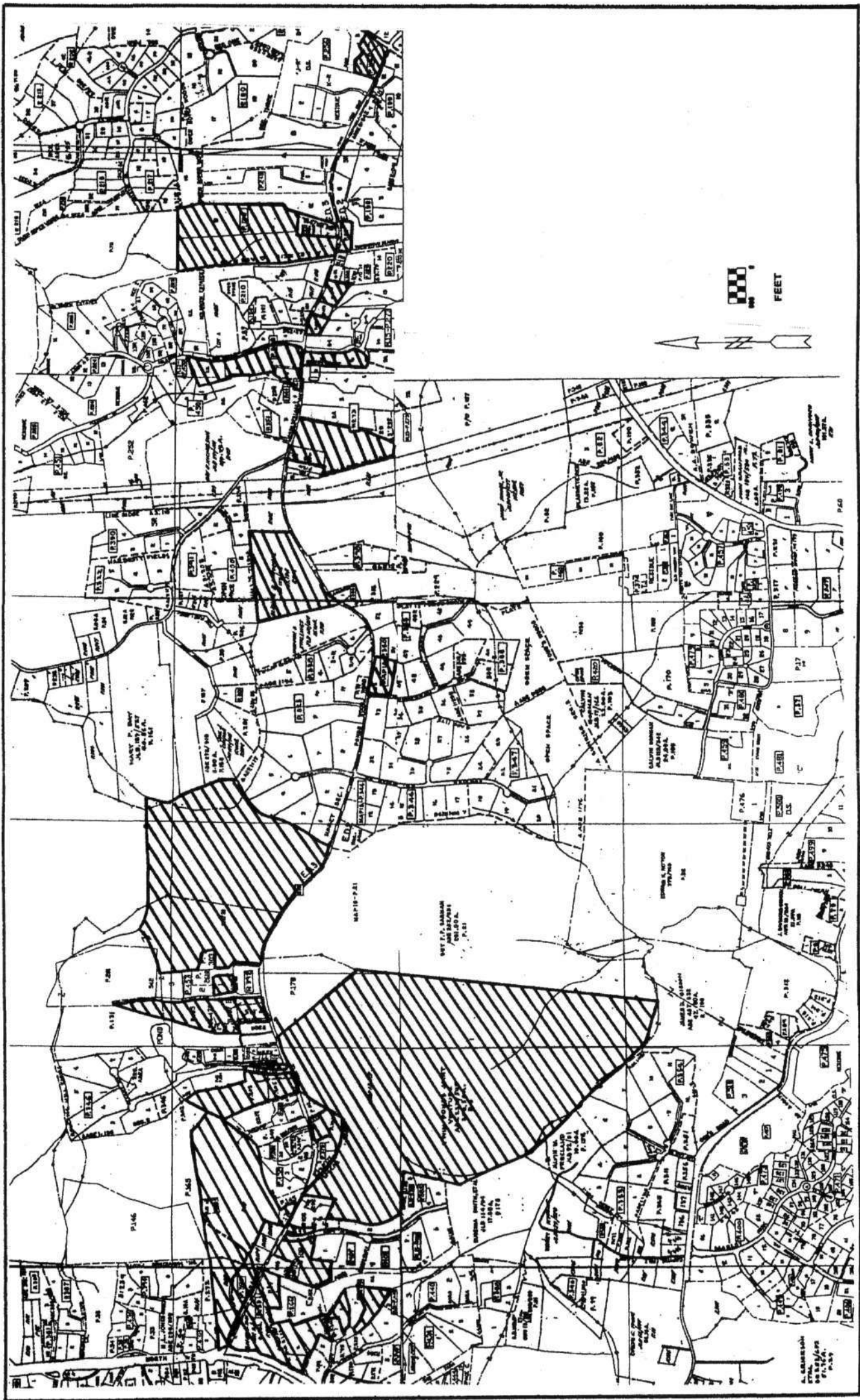




CT-1314

Ponds Wood Road Community

North Beach and Prince Frederick Quadrangles



PONDS WOOD ROAD COMMUNITY
DISTRICT BOUNDARY MAP



CT-1314
parcel with historic resources

**Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, MD**

Inventory No. CT-1314

Photo Log

Digital images printed in black and white on HP Premium Photo Paper, soft gloss, using HP 22 Tricolor and HP 58 Photo inks
25 July 2007

File name	Subject
CT-1314_2007-06-22_01.tif	View southeast to 135 Ponds Wood Road from Maryland Route 4/2
CT-1314_2007-06-22_02.tif	View northeast toward 50 Ponds Wood Road
CT-1314_2007-06-22_03.tif	View southeast toward 201 Ponds Wood Road
CT-1314_2007-03-31_04.tif	View north toward 510 Ponds Wood Road
CT-1314_2007-04-05_05.tif	View south from 510 Ponds Wood to 4470 Harvest Lane
CT-1314_2007-03-31_06.tif	View southeast from Spears Road
CT-1314_2007-03-31_07.tif	View north toward 4610 Rolling Hill Road
CT-1314_2007-05-05_08.tif	View north toward 950-990 Ponds Wood Road
CT-1314_2007-06-22_09.tif	View southeast toward 2355 Ponds Wood Road
CT-1314_2007-04-03_10.tif	View north toward 2530 Ponds Wood Road
CT-1314_2007-06-22_11.tif	View south toward 3950 Faith Lane
CT-1314_2007-05-05_12.tif	View southeast toward 2785 Ponds Wood Road
CT-1314_2007-06-22_13.tif	View northeast toward 3010 Ponds Wood Road
CT-1314_2007-06-22_14.tif	Tobacco Barn, 3010 Ponds Wood Road, View from southeast
CT-1314_2007-04-19_15.tif	Tobacco Barn, 2210 Ponds Wood Road, east elevation
CT-1314_2007-04-05_16.tif	Tobacco Barn, 3951 Moonbeam Avenue, south elevation
CT-1314_2007-04-03_17.tif	Tobacco Barn, 3950 Faith Lane, north elevation
CT-1314_2007-04-19_18.tif	Tobacco Barn, 50 Ponds Wood Road, east elevation
CT-1314_2007-04-12_19.tif	Tobacco Barn, 4150 Holbrook Lane, south elevation
CT-1314_2007-04-12_20.tif	Stable, 4030 Ponds Wood Road, east elevation
CT-1314_2007-04-05_21.tif	Tobacco Barn, 4470 Harvest Lane, west elevation
CT-1314_2007-04-05_22.tif	Tobacco Barn, 4470 Harvest Lane, south elevation
CT-1314_2007-04-19_23.tif	Tobacco Barn, 2955 Ponds Wood Road, east elevation
CT-1314_2007-05-05_24.tif	Tobacco Barn, 2355 Ponds Wood Road, south elevation
CT-1314_2007-04-05_25.tif	3010 Ponds Wood Road, View north toward house
CT-1314_2007-04-05_26.tif	3010 Ponds Wood Road, View north toward Tobacco Barn (left) Stable (right)
CT-1314_2007-03-31_27.tif	3010 Ponds Wood Road, View east toward House and Corn House
CT-1314_2007-04-03_28.tif	2530 Ponds Wood Road, View north toward Tobacco Barn and Sheds
CT-1314_2007-04-03_29.tif	1120 Ponds Wood Road, House, south elevation
CT-1314_2007-04-03_30.tif	1120 Ponds Wood Road, Tobacco Barn 1, west elevation
CT-1314_2007-05-05_31.tif	2355 Ponds Wood Road, View west
CT-1314_2007-04-12_32.tif	201 Ponds Wood Road, View southeast
CT-1314_2007-04-12_33.tif	201 Ponds Wood Road, View west
CT-1314_2007-04-05_34.tif	3010 Ponds Wood Road, House, south elevation
CT-1314_2007-04-05_35.tif	3010 Ponds Wood Road, House, north elevation
CT-1314_2007-04-12_36.tif	201 Ponds Wood Road, House, north elevation
CT-1314_2007-04-12_37.tif	201 Ponds Wood Road, House, south elevation
CT-1314_2007-04-12_38.tif	755 Ponds Wood Road, Tenant House, View from northwest
CT-1314_2007-04-12_39.tif	755 Ponds Wood Road, Tenant House, north elevation
CT-1314_2007-04-12_40.tif	755 Ponds Wood Road, Tenant House, south elevation
CT-1314_2007-04-12_41.tif	755 Ponds Wood Road, Tenant House, east elevation
CT-1314_2007-03-31_42.tif	675 Ponds Wood Road, House, View from northwest

CT-1314

CT-1314_2007-03-31_43.tif	675 Ponds Wood Road, House, west elevation
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CT-1314_2007-05-05_45.tif	3440 Bayside Road, House, north elevation
CT-1314_2007-05-05_46.tif	3440 Bayside Road, House, west elevation
CT-1314_2007-06-22_47.tif	780 Ponds Wood Road, House, view from southwest
CT-1314_2007-06-22_48.tif	780 Ponds Wood Road, House, west elevation
CT-1314_2007-03-31_49.tif	450 Ponds Wood Road, House, south elevation
CT-1314_2007-03-31_50.tif	450 Ponds Wood Road, House, view from northeast
CT-1314_2007-04-12_51.tif	755 Ponds Wood Road, View from the west toward (left to right) Tractor Shed, Chicken House, Corn House
CT-1314_2007-04-12_52.tif	755 Ponds Wood Road, Corn House, west elevation
CT-1314_2007-04-12_53.tif	755 Ponds Wood Road, Cattle Barn, north elevation
CT-1314_2007-04-12_54.tif	755 Ponds Wood Road, Cattle Barn, west elevation



CT-1314

Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, MD

RF Prola

22 June 2007

View southeast to 135 Ponds Wood Road from Maryland Route 4/2

1 of 54



CT-1314

Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, MD

RF Prota

22 June 2007

View northeast toward 50 Ponds Wood Road

2 of 54



Leadership that
works
**O'Mall
Brow**

CT-1314
Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, MD
RF ProLa

16 November 2006

View southeast toward 201 Ponds Wood Road

3 of 54



CT-1314

Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, MD

RF Prola

31 March 2007

View north toward 510 Ponds Wood Road

04 of 54



CT-1314

Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, MD

Fred Faya

5 April 2007

View south from 510 Ponds Wood Road to 4470 Harvest Lane

05 of 54



CT-1314

Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, MD

RF Arola

31 March 2007

View Southeast from Spears Road

06 of 54



CT-1314

Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, MD

RF Prola

31 March 2007

View north toward 4610 Rolling Hill Road
07 of 54



CT-1314

Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, MD

RF Prola

5 May 2007

View north toward 950-990 Ponds Wood Road

08 of 54



CT-1314

Ponds Wood Road Community

Huntingtown, MD

RF Prola

22 June 2007

View southeast toward 2355 Ponds Wood Road

09 of 54



CT-1314

Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, MD

Fred Faya

3 April 2007

View North toward 2530 Ponds Wood Road

10 of 54

HP Premium





CT-1314

Ponds Wood Road Community

Huntingtown, MD

RF Prola

22 June 2007

View South toward 3950 Faith Lane

11 of 54



CT-1314

Ponds Wood Road Community

Huntingtown, MD

RF Prola

5 May 2007

View southeast towards 2785 Ponds Wood Road

12 of 54



CT-1314

3010 Ponds Wood Road

Ponds Wood Road Community

Huntingtown, MD

RF Anla

22 June 2007

Tobacco Barn view from Southeast

13 of 54



CT-1314

3010 PONDS WOOD ROAD

PONDS WOOD ROAD COMMUNITY

HUNTINGTOWN, MD

R. F. PROLA

22 JUNE 2007

TOBACCO BARN, VIEW FROM SOUTHEAST

14 OF 54



CT-1314

2210 Ponds Wood Road,
Pondswood Road Community
Huntingtown, MD

Fred Faya

9 April 2007

Tobacco Barn, east elevation

15 of 54



CT-1314

3951 Moonbeam Avenue,

Ponds Wood Road Community

Huntingtown, MD

Fred Faya

5 April 2007

Tobacco Barn South elevation

16 of 54



CT-1314

3950 FAITH LANE

PONDS WOOD ROAD COMMUNITY

HUNTINGTOWN, MD

FRED FAYA

3 APRIL 2007

TOBACCO BARN, NORTH ELEVATION

17 OF 54



CT-1314

50 Ponds Wood Road
Ponds Wood Road Community

Huntingtown, MD

Fred Faya

19 April 2007

Tobacco Barn, east elevation

18 of 54



CT-1314

4150 Holbrook Lane,
Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, MD

Fred Faya

12 April 2007

Tobacco Barn, South elevation

19 of 54



CT-1314

4030 Halbrook Lane

Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, MD

Fred Faya

12 April 2007

Stable, East Elevation

20 of 54



CT-1314

4470 Harvest Lane,
Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, MD

Fred Faya

5 April 2007

Tobacco Barn, West Elevation

21 of 54



CT-1314

4470 Harvest Lane,
Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, MD

Fred Faya

5 April 2007

Tobacco Barn, South Elevation

22.4.54



CT-1314

2955 Ponds Wood Road,
Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, MD

Fred Facia

19 April 2007

Tobacco Barn, East Elevation

23 of 54



CT-1314

2355 Ponds Wood Road,
Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, MD
RF Prola

5 May 2007
Tobacco Barn, South Elevation
24 & 54



CT-1314

3010 PONDS WOOD ROAD

PONDS WOOD ROAD COMMUNITY

HUNTINGTOWN, MD

FRED FAYA

5 APRIL 2007

VIEW NORTH TOWARD HOUSE

25 OF 54



CT-1314

3010 Ponds Wood Road,
Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, MD

Fred Faya
5 April 2007

View North toward Tobacco Barn (left) Stable (right)

26 of 54



CT-1314
3010 Ponds Wood Road
Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, MD
RF Prola
31 March 2007
View east toward House and Corn House
27 of 54



CT-1314

2530 Ponds Wood Road

Ponds Wood Road Community

Huntingtown, MD

Fred Faya

3 April 2007

View north toward Tobacco Barn and Sheds

28 of 54



CT-1314

1120 Ponds Wood Road,
Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, MD

Fresh Faya

3 April 2007

House, South Elevation

29 of 54



CT-13114

1120 Ponds Wood Road
Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, MD
Fred Faya
3 April 2007
Tobacco Barn 1, West elevation
30 of 54



CT-1314

2355 Ponds Wood Road

Ponds Wood Road Community

Hurtingtown, MD

RF Prola

5 May 2007

View west

31 of 54



CT-1314

201 Ponds Wood Road

Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, MD

Fred Faya

12 April 2007

View Southeast

32 of 54



CT-1314

201 Ponds Wood Road

Ponds Wood Road Community

Huntingtown, MD

Fred Faya

12 April 2007

View West

33 + 54



CT-1314

3010 Ponds Wood Road
Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, MD

Fred Paya

5 April 2007

House, south elevation

34 of 54



CT-1314

3010 Ponds Wood Road
Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, MD

Fred Faya

5 April 2007

House, North Elevation

35 of 54



CT-1314

201 Ponds Wood Road
Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, MD

Fred Faya

12 April 2007

House, north elevation

36 of 54



CT-1314

201 Ponds Wood Road
Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, MD
Fred Faya
12 April 2007
House, south elevation
37 of 64



CT-1314

755 Ponds Wood Road

Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, MD

Fred Faya

12 April 2007

Tenant House, View from northwest

38 of 54



CT-1314

755 Ponds Wood Road

Ponds Wood Road Community

Hurtingtown, MD

Fred Faya

12 April 2007

Tenant House, north elevation

39 of 54



CT-1314

755 Ponds Wood Road
Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, MD
Fred Faya
12 April 2007
Tenant House, south elevation
40 of 54



CT-1314

755 Ponds Wood Road

Ponds Wood Road Community

Huntingtown, MD

Fred Faya

12 April 2007

Tenant House, east elevation

41 of 54



CT-1314

675 Ponds Wood Road

Huntingtown, MD

RF Prola

31 March 2007

House, view from northwest

42 of 54



CT-1314

675 Ponds Wood Road

Ponds Wood Road Community

Huntingtown, MD

RF Prola

31 March 2007

Hase, West elevation

43 of 54



CT-1314

3440 Bayside Road

Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, MD

RF Prola

5 May 2007

House, East elevation

44 of 54



CT-1314

3440 Bayside Road

Ponds Wood Road Community

Huntingtown, MD

RF Proia

5 May 2007

House, Earth Elevation

45 of 54



CT-1314
3440 Bayside Road
Ponds Wood Road Community
Huntingtown, MD
RF Prola
5 May 2007
House, west elevation
46 of 54



CT-1314

780 PONDS WOOD ROAD

PONDS WOOD ROAD COMMUNITY

HUNTINGTOWN, MD

R. F. PROLA

22 JUNE 2007

HOUSE, VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST

47 OF 54



CT-1314

780 PONDS WOOD ROAD

PONDS WOOD ROAD COMMUNITY

HUNTINGTOWN, MD

R F PROLA

22 JUNE 2007

HOUSE, WEST ELEVATION

48 OF 54



CT-1314

450 PONDWOOD RD

PONDWOOD ROAD COMMUNITY

HUNTINGTOWN, MD

R. F. PROLA

31 MARCH 2007

HOUSE, SOUTH ELEVATION

49 OF 54



CT-1314

450 PONDS WOOD RD

POND WOODS ROAD COMMUNITY

HUNTINGTOWN, MD

R. F. PROLA

31 MARCH 2007

HOUSE, VIEW FROM NORTHEAST

50 OF 54

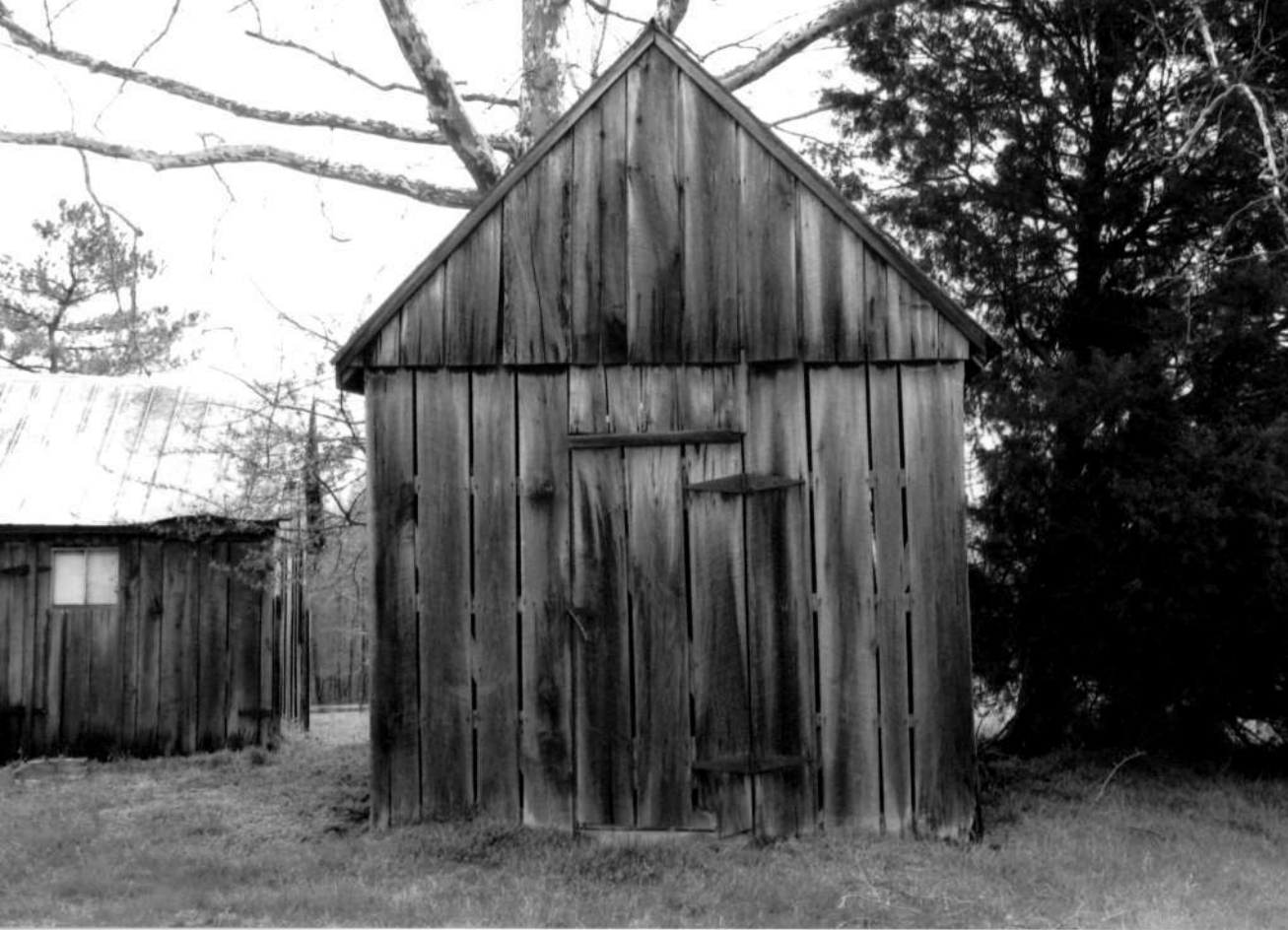


CT-1314

755 PONDS WOOD ROAD
PONDS WOOD ROAD COMMUNITY
HUNTINGTOWN, MD
FRED FAYA

12 APRIL 2007

VIEW FROM THE WEST TOWARD
(LEFT TO RIGHT) TRACTOR SHED,
CHICKEN HOUSE, CORN HOUSE
51 OF 54



CT-1314

755 PONDS WOOD ROAD

PONDS WOOD ROAD COMMUNITY

HUNTINGTOWN, MD

FRED FAYA

12 APRIL 2007

CORN HOUSE, WEST ELEVATION

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755 PONDS WOOD ROAD

PONDS WOOD ROAD COMMUNITY

HUNTINGTOWN, MD

FRED FAYA

12 APRIL 2007

CATTLE BARN, NORTH ELEVATION

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CT-1314

755 PONDS WOOD RD, PONDS WOOD RD COMM.

HUNTINGTOWN, MD

FRED FAYA, 12 APRIL 2007

CATTLE BARN, NORTH ELEVATION

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